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Majles Debates

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Majles Debates

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6 May

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[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Department—The Majles met in public session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

In this session, after comments by the deputies from Gonabad, Andimeshk, Miandow Ab and Babolsar, the Majles took up its agenda.

The totality of the Public Tribunal Bill was approved yesterday.

Printed below are the talks by the pre-agenda speakers and the Majles legislation.

Mehdi Mehdizadeh, Gonabad deputy.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Gonabad deputy Mehdi Mehdizadeh. He discussed America's crimes, saying: Where the world of imperialism, led by America, sees its interests threatened, it goes into action and tramples even the clearest human rights.

Continuing his remarks, he condemned America's presence in northern Iraq, and he cited the slaughter of millions of Shi'ites, Sunnis and Kurds as the black legacy and essence of world imperialism and of the deeds of the opportunist and unconscionable leaders of those nations.

Mehdi Mehdizadeh also emphasized: What is clear is that none of the Western nations is willing to tolerate an Islamic government in Iraq or any other country, and they have a strategic hostility with our Islamic government. If there are people who imagine we will benefit by failing to stand up to them, they are quite mistaken. To maintain the permanent struggle against world imperialism we must arm ourselves with knowledge and piety, and deal vigorously with the elements of fragmentation. [Passage omitted on destruction of forests and pastures; land erosion; depletion of water resources.]

He then mentioned the words of His Holiness the Imam, Mr. Karrubi and Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni concerning "simple lifestyles for officials." In this regard, he said: Consumerism and getting away from "the simple life" are a great danger threatening our Islamic society. Muslims saw the effects of this undesirable behavior once in Andalusia and another time in Palestine, and they experienced the bitter taste of defeat. In addition to the two above instances, there are many examples where consumerism and the love of show have sometimes ended with the destruction of Muslims. Unfortunately, recently in the country they have destroyed buildings with excellent decorations and they are building them in the so-called "traditional" way. In the ministries they are changing all the interior decor, even the elevators, which were not even that old. The appearance of the hotels and guest houses they are building on various pretexts is unbelievable. The gala affairs they have for foreign guests sometimes surprise even the foreign guests.

In the midst of this, the capitalists and some newcomers who accumulated wealth and astronomical incomes because of the malfunctions arising from the war and the revolution are setting a bad example for the masses of the people, who really have no suitable model for consumption. In view of the enjoinment against extravagance and waste in the clear religion of Islam and the fact that extravagance is a great sin, it is necessary that all officials pay attention to this important matter.

Hasan Reza'i, Andimeshk Deputy

The second pre-agenda speaker was Hasan Reza'i, of the Andimeshk electoral district. He began his talk with praise for the teaching profession. [passage omitted praising teachers]

Reza'i added: With God's help, the economic policies of Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani's competent government have been able to anchor inflation and curb borrowing in the banking system by drawing in the currency in circulation. They have reduced budget deficit, which was at about 53 percent at one point in the year 1367 [21 March 1988 - 20 March 1989], to 11 percent in the year 1370 [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992], and he has been able to carry out policies on foreign exchange and production, to increase production and to bring most factories to full capacity production, yet in addition to paying off debts from previous years and meeting the living costs of the people, he was faced with great and destructive natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and the onslaught of more than 1.1 million oppressed refugees from Iraq and Kuwait.

Now, through the power and glory of God, the nation's reconstruction in the framework of the Five-Year Economic, Social and Cultural Expansion Plan has been planned, approved and implemented by the Supreme Policy Council, and it is yielding self-sufficient economic production, daily-increasing production, and the nation's full independence. It is expected that speakers and writers, especially committed experts and economists will discuss these policies, and if there are any shortcomings and objections they will not hesitate to offer fair guidance and commentary, but I caution those politically-motivated critics who stray from a firm grounding in courtesy, logic and reason without regard to the distinction between criticism and revenge and who without realizing the nation's position and interest sometimes put group and party interest ahead of the interest of the nation of Islam, and I advise them to reassess their adopted methods, for God's sake and to preserve the valued gains of the revolution.

Continuing, the Andimshak deputy said: Politically, praise God, with the wise measures taken by the exalted Leader [Khamene'i] and the Supreme National Security Council and the extensive and active diplomatic efforts in foreign policy which preserve our values, every day we are also seeing the establishment of relations with other

nations. The awakening of the Muslim nations and the wave of Islamic fundamentalism are bitter medicine for America, and have endangered its interests more than before. Therefore, to frustrate the Muslims, weaken their will and make them indecisive, America and its allies are proclaiming on the one hand that Iran is turning to the West and on the other hand, in reporting to Congress its Department of State claims that Iran and several other countries are supporting terrorism and so forth, thereby obscuring the humanitarian aid from the Islamic Republic, which is today the only refuge for oppressed people. It does not hide the fact that its own expansionist and oppressive policies in the name of regional security have actually threatened world security, and especially Middle East security, and have deprived millions of innocent people of life and comfort. Since, in the words of the Imam, may God have mercy on him, this is America practicing state terrorism, we thank God that the oppressed people of Iraq, despite their losses and homelessness, have recognized America's filthy objectives and its false essence and have accepted their lives as refugees under difficult mountain conditions rather than submit to relocation in the American so-called 'secure' area.

Hosein Ali Zia'i, Miandow Ab Deputy

Hosein Ali Zia'i from the Miandow Ab electoral district, using the time of the Babolsar deputy, expressed thanks for the wise measures taken by the president of the republic in implementing the Five-year Plan and laying the groundwork for achieving full economic balance and stabilizing the legitimacy of the Islamic government internationally. He discussed Workers Day and the enactment of the Labor Law, and expressed the hope that the workers would show their appreciation for this constructive measure with daily-increasing work and effort combined with more interest and concern, so that the Islamic homeland can achieve full self-sufficiency.

Continuing, he commemorated Teachers Day and the memory of Martyr Motahari. He said: It is hoped that the educated people of Islamic Iran will always value the exalted teaching profession and support teaching and training so that ignorance and lack of knowledge can be completely uprooted, just as the respected representatives of the people in the Majles support the teacher and are faithful protectors of this noble profession and supporters of its related officials.

He discussed the change of Nekab va Shahindezh to a municipality. He thanked all the relevant officials in this regard and expressed the hope that the gentlemen in the ministries and the chiefs of the government organizations would expedite and assist with the expanding and raising the level of the relevant organizations in this municipality.

In conclusion, Zia'i discussed the enthusiastic welcome the people in his electoral district gave to the minister of the interior.

Mohammad Majd-Ara, Babolsar and Bandpay deputy

Mohammad Majd-Ara, Babolsar and Bandpay deputy, was the final pre-agenda speaker. At the beginning of his talk he discussed the president of the republic's trip to Syria and Turkey. With regard to this, he said: On this trip all the government's officials saw first-hand the evidence of the effects of the revolution and its export in the true sense of the word, and how it has conquered the hearts of free and believing Muslims. Despite the employement of all material resources to extinguish the divine light over the course of fifty years, the noble Muslim people of Turkey shouted "God is great," "Blessed is Mohammad, welcome to the Imam's companion," and with the slogans "welcome Rafsanjani, the Imam's line," and "death to America" they turned out to welcome one of the oldest and most sincere revolutionary crusader of the system! The press of a nation which breathed for many years in the unwholesome atmosphere of nihilism and promoted the corrupt cultural models of the West, was completely astonished to see the light of the desire for Islam and religious fervor among the revolutionary slogans of the noble people of Turkey. In the city of Urfa, where a woman without a veil is never seen, and in the city of Konya, where they embrace Mowlana, the mystic of the age, eager people with tears in their eyes and many victims sacrificed came to welcome our beloved president of the republic. The officials, especially the Turkish president of the republic, warmly and sincerely accompanied the delegation throughout the trip, which was unprecedented for its kind.

The speaker cited major economic agreements between the Turkish government and our country as important achievements from Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani's trip. He said: The important economic agreements, some of which were suspended during implementation in the years following the revolution, were made wisely and perceptively with the special sincerity of our nation's president, as follows: Concerning oil, a treaty was signed between the National Iranian Oil Company and the Turkish Tuprash company to sell three million tons of crude oil to be delivered in the remaining months of the current Christian year.

Concerning natural gas, Turkey agreed to purchase annually four to five billion cubic meters of Iran's natural gas through the Iran-Europe gas pipeline based on a long-term contract.

Concerning electrical power, the two countries agreed to begin immediately the construction of a 400 kilowatt power trinsmission line to connect the electrical networks of the two nations, to be completed in no more than three years. In three years Iran has bought through this line seven billion kilowatt hours of 800-megawatt electrical energy from Turkey, and after that two billion kilowatt hours of electrical engergy will be exchanged by the two countries annually through this line.

With regard to shipping and communications: (A) In the next three months, existing restrictions on the issuance of truck transit permits to cross the common border between the two nations will be removed, and trucks crossing the common border will not be required to obtain foreign currency.

(B) The Tehran - Istanbul and Istanbul - Tehran rail line will go into operation within three months.

(C) To increase the rail traffic in passengers and goods between the two nations, Turkey is to study the possibility of building a railway to the south of Lake Van.

In the area of trade and services, both countries agreed to work to establish a preferred trade system in the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

He also emphasized: An inescapable point in Turkey was the very good progress in the areas of agriculture, bridge and building construction, infrastructural installations, especially the construction of dams to capture and control water, and the establishment of a one-rate system and the elimination of subsidies in such a way that revenues are to an extent suitable for meeting expenses, and this in itself is a telling indication that the implementation of the Five-year Plan and the government's economic policies can be a suitable economic solution for our country as it works its way past the eight years of ruin and economic collapse caused by the war, by reaching a point of economic equilibrium and creating a one-rate system for goods, increasing productivity and raw materials in the factories and expanding infrastructure projects, concurrent with increasing the purchasing power of the people. The unprecedented growth of 77.4 percent, or 5,632.5 billion rials, in the government's general revenues, which is 39.2 percent more than the figure approved in the Five-year Plan and on the other hand the 76.7 percent growth over the same period last year in development expenditures to 1,832.2 billion rials, which is 10.9 percent more than the figure approved in the plan, shows the success of the current policy. On the other hand the budget deficit has been limited to 675.3 billion rials, which is 58.3 percent less than the figure approved in the plan and 46.3 percent less than the budget deficit figure for the same period last year, and this is unprecedented in recent years.

Elsewhere in his talk, Majd-Ara discussed the unparalleled welcome by the officials and clergy of Syria and the meetings between Hezbollah forces, the Lebanese Mojahedin, the Palestinians, the Muslim clergy and religious leaders of Lebanon and our nation's president of the republic. He said:

In all the meetings we saw, they declared their delight and enthusiasm for the unstinting support from the Islamic revolution of Iran and the leaders of the government, especially the exalted Leader and the president of the republic, for the movements of the oppressed Palestinians, and for Iran's wise and prudent positions concerning the Persian Gulf crisis. Some officials, in declaring their renewed commitment and allegiance to their revolutionary anthems, praised the steadfastness of the Islamic revolution on our dear late Imam's line, and the splendid hostility of our officials and dear people in their struggle against the presence of the world-devouring American imperialists in the area. In one sense, Lebanon came to Syria to welcome us.

Ratifications

The double-urgency motion to amend Paragraph B Note 32 of the 1370 [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992] Budget Law was discussed and studied at yesterday's public Majles session in the presence of members of the Council of Guardians, and was approved by the deputies.

The report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent states that based on Article One of this motion, Paragraph B Note 32 of the 1370 [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992] Budget Law is to be amended as follows:

Paragraph B: With the approval of the Plan and Budget Organization, and for the purpose of implementing Paragraph and Note 5 of this law, to set a guaranteed rate for the purchase of crops and to implement the government's other farmer and consumer support policies, every three months, the government must make available to the Consumer and Producer Support Organization one-twelfth of any revenues from the sale of foreign exchange in excess of 3,024 billion rials and up to a maximum of 500 billion rials.

According to Note 2, The allocation in row 101004 (the Supreme National Security Council) and allocation in row 101005 (the Institute for Strategic Studies) will be 70 percent exempt from the Public Expenditure Law, and the allocation in row 101009 (cost of the anniversary observances of the Imam ['s death]) is 100 percent exempt.

According to Note 3, the project to equip the Tabas Rock Coal facility is to be treated as an important project.

The second item on the agenda is continued consideration of the report from the first consultation of the Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee concerning the Public Tribunal Bill. Its supporters and opponents spoke at last Wednesday's session. The committee secretary and the government's representative [executive branch] spoke at yesterday's session.

'Abbas ali 'Amid-Zanjani (the committee secretary) said that the bill's primary purpose is to "create a single judicial authority to prevent confusion during investigation and to eliminate religious law problems in the current administrative system and procedures."

In this regard he said: In the legal sense, officials at the public prosecutor's offices are "standing judges" who are not competent to issue opinions. Therefore, from the standpoint of religious law they cannot intervene in judicial affairs.

The committee secretary said that this bill's second purpose is to establish courts with general jurisdiction.

Continuing, he answered the objections raised by the bill's opponents. He said: We have a separate law for reviewing the verdicts of the courts which is based on a series of jurisprudence and religious law criteria.

In the Public Tribunal Bill, the public prosecutors are selected in their present form, it is not that the entire investigation apparatus is selected, but the Public Tribunal Bill emphasizes the matter of investigation, but investigation that is under a judge's supervision, with its religious law aspects observed.

'Amid-Zanjani answered the objection that if the Public Tribunal Bill is implemented, our judicial system will not conform to international standards. He said: This is just worrying. Which one of your country's laws that conforms to Islamic criteria has been required to conform to international standards? Why should this one be enacted within the framework demanded by the West and the East? The idea that the laws of the Islamic Republic should have to be in the framework of international standards is an inappropriate expectation and one which disregards Article Four of the Constitution.

He added: The overall design of this bill conforms to the special criteria of Islam, and it presents one of the most modern and advanced systems of justice.

After the remarks from the Judicial Committee Secretary, the minister of justice spoke in defense of the bill as the government's representative. He said: We must reduce the number of investigative authorities in our nation's judicial system so the people will know where to refer to get their work done.

Concerning appeals, he said: Currently there are numerous individuals (including the convicted party and others) who can on various pretexts request appeals, and in the Public Tribunal Bill these excessive instances will be prevented.

It is our belief that appeals should only be made on important claims and verdicts.

Continuing, Shushtari said: In many of the world's judicial systems (such as England's) there is no public prosecutor, yet the public prosecutor has not been eliminated here. However, there ought not to be a public prosecutor before the court proceedings. The public prosecutor must be supervised by the court and the court and the judge issuing the verdict must in each case regard it as necessary to notify the public prosecutor so the verdict can be implemented.

Then the totality of the bill was put to a vote and approved with a strong majority of the deputies.

The next item on the Majles agenda was the Economic and Financial Affairs Committee's report on the single-urgency motion to provide loans to former prisoners of war. After consideration and discussion by opponents and supporters, the totality and particulars of this bill were approved. According to Article One, the government must calculate annually and include in the budget bill the difference between the fees and the bank interest on housing loans for former prisoners of war, after deducting four percent, which will be paid by the former prisoners of war.

Note One: The amount needed for the year 1370 [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992] will be procured from the allocation in row 503001 (unanticipated costs).

Note Two: The amount of loans paid will be designated by the former prisoners of war staff. The maximum amount of this loan will be ten million rials.

The manner of payment, stipulation and priority of loans will be defined in a set of guidelines to be approved by the Council of Ministers.

Note Three: Every three months, the government must report to the Majles Economic and Financial Affairs Committee and to the Majles Plan and Budget Committee on what has been achieved under this law.

Our correspondent reports that the fourth item on the agenda was the report from the first round of consultation of the Administrative Affairs and Employment Committee on the motion to authorize employing 1,000 official employees at the National Deeds and Registry Organization. After comments from deputies supporting and opposing the motion, Seyyed Reza Zavareh'i, deputy minister of justice and the chief of the National Deeds and Registry Organization also discussed this bill, and after a vote the bill was approved in its totality.

The next item on the agenda was the report from the Public Accounts, Budget and Financial Affairs Committee on the clearing up of the 1367 [21 March 1988 - 20 March 1989] Majles Budget, which was delivered to the deputies.

The Majles will meet in public session tomorrow morning at eight.

Majles Notes

At yesterday's Majles session, only about an hour after the official session had begun most of the Majles seats were empty and the deputies were outside the parliament.

RESALAT's correspondent reports that in a head count of deputies, only about 70 of the quorum of 180 of deputies was present in parliament. In cases such as this, after repeated effort and requests, some members of the Majles leadership running back and forth looking for deputies in the halls of the Majles are able with difficulty to bring the attendance up to 180 for a vote, and of course after the results of the vote are announced, a number of those same deputies leave the assembly hall again. Back to square one...

This matter has been vigorously protested repeatedly by the Speaker of the Majles. Yesterday Mr. Karrubi angrily ordered the doors to parliament locked and that deputies not be permitted to leave.

What happened at yesterday's public Majles session has been repeated over and over so that sometimes there have been 179 people at the session waiting for one more so they could vote on motions and bills.

Yet it is estimated that every minute of a public Majles session is conducted at tremendous expense to the public treasury. It appears that the Speaker of the Majles, the leadership, and the respected deputies ought to amend the Majles internal guidelines to prevent the repeat of this problem, which is a waste of the public treasury of Muslims.

The newspaper JAHAN-E ESLAM will soon be added to the nation's press circle.

Mr. Hadi Khameneh'i, the Mashhad deputy who holds the concession for this newspaper, was asked by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent about how he selected the newspaper's name. He said: Those involved considered many names, and since the name JAHAN-E ESLAM is comprehensive and general, they chose it. Of course if the newspaper RESALAT had a different name, we would have used that name, because the word RESALAT carries a religious, social and cultural connotation.

The answer from the Speaker of the Majles to the letter from the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers concerning the dangers of eliminating the phrase "practical commitment to Islam and the system" has been published in pamphlet form.

This pamphlet has been published in two colors in thousands of copies by the Majles Propaganda and Publications Office.

The warning from the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers and the answer from the speaker of the Majles had wide repercussions in society so that various cultural and student groups, the Friday imams, the guilds and others sought to preserve the requirement for practical commitment to Islam and the system for candidacy to the Majles.

The systematic publication of the answer from the Speaker of the Majles to the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers, in which Mr. Karrubi rejected the problems raised concerning the Majles Election Reform Bill, is taking place at a time when, shortly after giving that answer, the Speaker of the Majles proposed that the following be made requirements for candidacy to the Majles:

1 - Belief and practical commitment to Islam

Note: What is meant by practical commitment to Islam is the performance of religious obligations and avoidance of prohibited acts.

2 - Belief and practical commitment to the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3 - Profession of loyalty to the Constitution.

Apart from the motivation for this step, which is worthy of discussion and study in its own right, the legal basis for publishing this pamphlet with Majles budget funds is not clear.

* 7 May

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[Text] **Legislative and parliamentary division. The open session of the Majles yesterday was held with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.**

In this session, following the statements of the representatives of Mahneshan and Sari, the Majles went into session, and the general points of the proposal for the gradual reduction and elimination of the use of tobacco was ratified.

Below you will read a report of the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT on yesterday's open session of the Majles.

Reza Abdollahi, the Representative of Mahneshan

Monopoly, particularly government monopoly, has prevented the economic growth and blossoming of the country.

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Reza 'Abdollahi, from Mahneshan.

Referring to the visit of the foreign minister of Germany to our country, he asked for a revision of past relations with Iran and [proposed that] as a sign of their good intentions, they follow their commitment to complete and operate the Bushehr nuclear plant.

He continued: We must give greater attention to allocating resources and general attention to education. With contentment and hardship in other areas, we must deal with education with a free hand and proper planning as a starting point. Otherwise, we will have to import all sorts of technology and machinery at prices several times higher. Experience has shown that in many instances we have such machinery but cannot make use of it. Instead of importing the result of the scientific knowledge of others, such as tools and machines, we must go after science and knowledge.

After 12 years of experience, we have realized that the center of development is science and technology, which culminates in human capital, education, higher education and research centers. We must reach the belief that investing in industry and agriculture without relying on competent human resources will not solve any problem, and by pumping foreign currency into industry and fertilizer and tractors into agriculture, we will not be owners of industry and agriculture. But if we take a little more time to venture into industry, mines, agriculture and oil and progress according to a plan, with our own trained forces, we shall certainly be successful.

In another part of his speech, he honored the memory of the revered martyr and Islamicist, Professor Motahhari.

'Abdollahi added: Today, one of the issues that we must pay attention to is reducing waste, which exhausts a large amount of our resources.

The waste of about 20 percent of the bread produced is equivalent to $200 million annually. We use a great deal of land for planting wheat, with a heavy investment in water and soil resources. For planting and harvesting operations, many of the agricultural institutions and machinery, such as combines and harvesting tractors, in addition to fertilizers and pesticides, are imported into the country directly or indirectly to produce wheat and bread. But due to inadequate scientific understanding of the issues and neglecting the kind and quality of wheat, unfortunately, we witness that 1-3 percent of the wheat produced is of high quality, 10 percent good quality, 30 percent medium quality, 50 percent low quality, and 7 percent very low quality. Therefore, the wheat gained at this heavy price and low quality does not give us good flour. Considering the limited resources of silos and the deficiencies of flour mill factories due to age and shortage of spare parts, flour of an acceptable standard cannot be produced for bread and other foods. In a country with a current research budget of $70 million, the reduction in waste of $200 million requires research and investigation. In this research, numerous issues must be taken into consideration: the kind of wheat and the characteristics of quality, the procedure for keeping pesticides in the silos, how to change wheat into flour, and finally the production of bread by expert bakers with motivation and speed, more supply than demand, and at suitable price. If so, waste can be reduced to an acceptable level.

Concerning the subsidies, the speaker said: While 55 percent of the calories of a rural person are gained from bread, unfortunately, this oppressed stratum procures bread at at least twice the price urban dweller's pay. And since they use a great deal of bread, the increase in the price of wheat hurts more with each passing day. In the economic modification policy, these issues must be given attention, and the honorable economic council must study these issues so that everyone in the society, except the oppressed strata, pays the whole price for the goods and services they receive. The fact that with regard to many items, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, water, electricity, bread, airplanes, the hajj pilgrimage, telephone, postage and communications, health and treatment, education, university, research, housing and roads, the share of the weak stratum is paid to the middle stratum, which have subsidies, is a sin that must be avoided.

He added: One of the other important problems that we must deal with is the issue of breaking government monopolies which have prevented economic growth. In the present system, in which foreign currency and resources are placed at the disposal of some of the protected government sectors, we witness shortcomings in competition and management capabilities. Many government managers, through negotiations, creating the proper atmosphere and political relations and influence, gain access to resources which, if placed at the disposal of the people and the non-governmental sector, given the present work situation, would leave the government organizations unable to compete. In other words, in addition to imposing unnecessary expenditures and increasing the cost of the goods and services, they hide many of their management weaknesses behind government foreign currency, and some appear to be strong managers. In any case, it is a proven principle that competition brings about hard work and innovation and forces organizations to improve their work. Monopoly brings about as much recession as competition does hard work, and hard work builds a better society.

If the resources were distributed deservingly, of the $189 billion which we spent over the past 12 years, at least we would have received a better return on 30 percent of it, which has not been so. Except for the political, defense and public affairs sectors, we must place the foreign currency revenues and legal permits at the disposal of the whole society. For example, we must sell dollars at a determined rate to anyone who wants to work, whether a government or non-government organization, so that those who have the competence can deliver the goods and services within a specific framework, and let them make a profit. Otherwise, let them leave the arena with the losses.

He requested that the officials provide more assistance in regards to eliminating the problems regarding bread and provide the necessary facilities for the hard-working people of this guild.

'Abdollahi also expressed his gratitude for the steps taken by the officials of the Province of Zanjan and the heads of the offices and organizations of that province for their service and work and asked the national officials to solve the existing problems and difficulties and eliminate the shortages of this province.

'Ezzatollah Damadi, the Representative of Sari

If there are problems in connection with the economic policies, they must be pointed out without political motives.

'Ezzatollah Damadi, the representative of Sari, was the last pre-agenda speaker. He first offered congratulations on Teachers' Day to the educators of the country and of Mazandaran, and then, in this connection, said: If the Iranian nation and other oppressed countries of the world want to be saved from the conspiratorial traps of the great powers, they have no choice but to reform their education system and ensure its independence. This is not possible except at the hands of committed professors and teachers teaching in schools and universities, teaching and working in various fields of science, giving proper training and cleansing the centers of education from deviant elements, teaching the young people, who are the resources of the country and the source of hope

for the nation, in all fields and sending them to the Islamic experts to acquaint the young people with Islam and its life-giving ideology and giving them scholarly and practical training. The constant emphasis of the Imam and the grand leader in connection with education and the sensitivity of this vital issue is a natural and certain matter that must be on the top of our agenda.

All those in charge of the affairs, particularly the politicians, must regard education and the status of teachers highly so that the teachers can carry out their mission, which is the same as the that of the prophets, and so that they can run schools that make human beings that only submit to truth and are not influenced by any power in the face of the nonsense of the East and the West and accept the great responsibility of refinement and education.

In the same connection, the speaker honored the anniversary of the martyrdom of Professor Motahhari and praised the education officials, especially the minister and director general of the Province of Mazandaran.

In another part of his speech, he referred to Labor Day and said: The Marxists, who considered themselves the defenders of Marxism, and through slogans of support for the workers, have taken undue advantage of and subjugated the workers. Now that the Marxist system has crumbled and taken refuge in the trash bin of history, we see in the countries that support the workers how certain rights of workers have been violated and what disaster unemployment creates.

Thanking the workers for their hard work in our country in connection with the implementation of the labor law, the representative of Sari pointed out: The complete implementation of the labor law will eliminate an important part of the workers' problems, and by implementing this law, the sound relationship between worker and employer and more job security will be created, which will have an effective role in the construction.

'Ezzatollah Damadi, in another part of his speech, referred to the success of the economic policies of the government of Mr. Hashemi and said: Statistics show that with the economic policy of the government of Mr. Hashemi in the area of increasing production, the foreign currency policy, controlling the cash flow in the country, harnessing inflation, reducing borrowing from the banking system, reducing the budget deficit and increasing the developmental budget, conditions in the country are improving. Of course, as a result of national disasters such as floods and earthquakes and taking care of more than one million Iraqi refugees as well as reconstruction, certain problems have occurred. But I must add that those who know of a better solution must speak up in order that we solve the problems sooner. If there are problems, they must be mentioned without political motives, and solutions must be found. Today, by the grace of God, the government based on the first economic development plan and in harmony with the schedule ratified by the Majles has begun basic and fundamental work and needs everyone's help and efforts in order for the country that has suffered eight years of an imposed war to achieve complete independence. We all know that the problem of inflation and the damages after the war are greater than during the war, and the people's expectations have multiplied. Hence, their solution requires time and the people's composure.

Continuing, he asked for the facilitation of the return of Iranians abroad who want to share in some way in the reconstruction of the country, both intellectually and materially.

The representative of Sari also thanked the officials of the airlines, especially Engineer Shaffi, who have been active in the start of the operations of the Dasht-e Naz Airport at Sari, and in conclusion, he thanked the grand leader, the president and the minister of interior in connection with the very essential combining of the security forces.

Ratifications

The report of the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT indicates that the first round of discussions of the committee on health and welfare concerning the general points of the legislative proposal to gradually reduce and eliminate the use of tobacco was discussed as the first item on the agenda. After the statements of the spokesman of the committee and the supporters and opponents, the general points of this proposal were put to a vote and ratified with a decisive majority vote.

Based on the single article of this proposal, "from the date of the ratification of this law the government is responsible, in order to prevent diseases stemming from the use of tobacco and in order to ensure the health of the people in the society and reduce the treatment costs in the country, for observing and implementing the policies stated in this law."

Article 3 of this proposal states: Four months after the ratification of this law, the use of tobacco will be prohibited in government and government-affiliated buildings, non-government public places, production units and public transportation.

Also, based on Article 3, four months after the ratification of this law, employing those addicted to cigarettes and tobacco will be prohibited in all government offices, establishments, companies, and organizations or in any organization that in any way receives funds from the treasury. Article 7 states: "The Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education shall be responsible for providing the necessary means in all health centers of the country for the treatment of tobacco addicts and, if necessary, for taking steps in establishing counselling centers for withdrawing from smoking."

It is worthy of note that this proposal should be discussed again in detail in the open session, and the

above-mentioned items can only be enforced after the details are ratified and verified by the Council of Guardians.

The second item on the agenda of the Majles session yesterday was the first round of discussions of the public expenditure committee concerning the proposal on the financial bylaws of the Majles, the general points of which were ratified by the representatives after discussions.

In the session yesterday, the credentials of Mr. Ahmad Salek-Kashani from Esfahan were approved.

* 8 May

91AS0957A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 May 91 p 5

[Text]

Report on the Open Session of the Majles Yesterday

Legislative and parliamentary division. The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.

In this session, following the statements of the representatives of Dargaz and Miandow Ab, the Majles went into session.

Javad Hoseinzadeh, the Representative of Dargaz

Proper policies at the start of the Persian Gulf crisis place Iran in a position to play the primary role in determining the fate of the region.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Javad Hoseinzadeh, the representative of Dargaz, who first referred to the deadly silence of the world news media about southern Iraq and said:

Proper policies at the start of the crisis in the region placed Iran in a position to play the primary role in the fate of the region. The countries of the world, particularly in the region, have realized that providing security and political and economic stability in the region is not possible except through cooperation with one another and outside the decision of the superpowers. The security of the region is only meaningful with the presence of the Islamic Republic.

Referring to the conspiracy by England and the United States to create a security zone in Iraq, the speaker said: This conspiracy, with the consent of Saddam, will ultimately create a region of chaos which will require high political awareness and readiness in order to deal seriously with the conspiracy at an appropriate time. [Passage omitted on lack of housing, medical services for workers]

Asadollah Tabe', the Representative of Miandow Ab

Asadollah Tabe', the representative of Miandow ab, Shahindezh and Takab, was the last pre-agenda speaker. He praised the lofty position of teachers and asked the minister of heavy industries to expedite giving vehicles to teachers in honor of the service of this self-sacrificing stratum which has honorably endured for several years the problems resulting from paying the price of vehicles. [Passage omitted in praise of people receiving Kurdish refugees]

Continuing his speech, Asadollah Tabe' criticized the procedure to attend to the problems of the self-sacrificers in the country and in this connection pointed out:

The way the affairs of the self-sacrificers are attended to is not even the same in 70 percent of the cities. For example, the way the living conditions and problems of self-sacrificers are attended to in Tehran, Esfahan, Mashhad, Shiraz and Tabriz is different than in the war-stricken provinces and oppressed and distant cities of the country, because in the war-stricken provinces and oppressed regions there are no specialized physicians in the fields needed by the self-sacrificers, and the physicians of the region do not admit them and the officials are unable to respond to their needs. Because the self-sacrificers of those regions have no access to a supervisor or the acting director of the foundation in Tehran, they cannot talk about their problems to them and resolve them. For this reason, the problems of money, transportation and employment in the oppressed and distant areas continue unchanged. On the other hand, self-sacrificers who live in Tehran or capitals of other provinces can meet the officials whenever they want to and can talk about their problems.

It has been observed in practice that the way the problems of 70 percent of the self-sacrificers from, Takab, Shahindezh, Miandoab, and even Urmia are handled is different from that of such places as Tehran, Shiraz, Esfahan and Tabriz. Do those who live in the oppressed and distant areas have no needs? Do they not need vehicles? Even after the efforts of the representatives, the provincial self-sacrificers are unable to meet with the supervisor of the national foundation for the self-sacrificers. Why is this so? What does it mean for a self-sacrificer to remain behind doors that have been closed to him for months? [Passage omitted on disabled workers and lack of needed services]

Agenda

The report by the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT indicates that the details of the proposal to amend Article 13 of the export and import regulations law was presented as the first item on the agenda, which was discussed and, after the speeches of supporting and opposing representatives, ratified.

Based on the single article of this proposal, Article 13 of the export and import regulations law will be amended as follows. The employees of sailing vessels and dhows who traffic between the coast of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries may on each trip (maximum of six trips per year) bring with them items from the list of imported goods of the cooperative companies of border residents, provided the restrictions and conditions cited

in the law and bylaws of permitted and conditionally permitted goods are observed, within a total ceiling of 50,000 rials, in exchange for the export of goods, without foreign currency contracts or the transfer of foreign currency, and in compliance with the laws concerning the acquisition of permits, with the payment of 50 percent in related funds to be released from customs.

Note. If the employees cited in this single article are unable to make a trip every year due to obstacles created by government organizations or natural factors, they may use their quota for the trip that has not taken place in subsequent trips.

The last item on the agenda was the report of the joint committee on economic and finance, and the public expenditures in regards to "rejection of the bill exempting the government companies from the regulations of Articles 31 and 90 of the public expenditure law ratified on 1/6/1366 [23 August 1987]" (auditing and supervision).

In this regard, the spokesman of the joint committee said: The introduction of the bill proposed states that this law interferes with and prevents the operation of the government companies while the government companies must follow their own laws and regulations as stated in their charters.

He added: Government companies have two sorts of income, first, their own income and, second, the general income through the budget. Auditors are appointed to check on whether or not the funds in these companies are spent in compliance with the regulations. If it is contrary to the law, he is to announce it to the official in charge and request an investigation.

If there are no auditors and expenditures are not based on regulations, no authority will exist to investigate, and there will be no supervision over expenditures.

He added: We have no argument against the government companies having a free reign to enable them to compete with the private sector.

He emphasized: On the whole, I do not see eliminating these articles in regards to the government companies to be in our best interests. The omission of these two articles means the elimination of the entire public expenditure law. If companies want to work precisely and in accordance with the law, what is the problem with the auditor being there as well?

After the spokesman of the committee, Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh, the representative of Birjand, spoke as the first "opponent" and said: Essentially, the advantage of government companies is more activity, working just as in the private companies and being transformed from a state of lethargy, as in a government organization.

The government does not want auditors for the current affairs of the companies. The general manager signs something, then the auditor says it is not in compliance with the regulations, and the work of the company stops. The presence of an auditor will cause stagnation in the work of companies.

Ask the officials who have had executive responsibilities (no matter what kind) whether it is easy or difficult to work with auditors. Ask people whom you trust. I am not saying that auditors are bad, but because of the meticulous nature of their work, things will stop, willingly or unwillingly.

He added: There is a time for the slogan of defending the government. There is a time when indeed we want the work in government companies to make practical progress. In this case, it is time for action. If a person truly supports the government, now he must help the companies so that the government companies, which are the rivets of the government and the foundations of the regime, can work rapidly.

The government company can be active when there is no auditor and the general director is able to work rapidly and advance.

Qasem Mehrzad Sedqiani, the representative of Salmas, was the first supporter of the rejection of this bill. He said: The goal of the public expenditure law is to protect the treasury and ensure that expenditures are in compliance with the laws. If a general director finds it necessary for an expenditure to be made but the auditor opposes it, that official can take the responsibility for approving the expenditure and later it will be investigated in accordance with the law.

He added: With the ratification of such bills and proposals, the public expenditure will be, for all intents and purposes, ineffectual, and we will lose control.

Davudi-Shamsi, the representative of Ardakan, was the second opponent of rejecting the bill. He said: Our accounting methods are generally antiquated and inadequate. Instead of computerizing and mechanizing the systems, we regularly add new regulations to control them, whereas the important point is the shortage of experts in accounting.

He added: The projects of a company that must compete and have speed in purchasing, selling and production of goods will be postponed due to numerous controls.

He pointed out: If the auditor does not cause any problems, why is it that every year one-fourth of our total budget is outside the public expenditure law?

The second supporter of the rejection was 'Ali Movahedi-Saveji, the representative of the people of Saveh. He said: Dear brothers, how can you, instead of going after the real reason, consider something that will not cause any obstacles in the companies as an imaginary obstacle?

The gentlemen think that the public expenditure law is only for ministries and government organizations. It is a false notion to think that where the trade law reigns there

is no room for the public expenditure law. It is shameful to try to limit the power of the public expenditure law and eliminate auditing from the companies.

Mr. Ha'erizadeh says the public expenditure law is an obstacle for government companies, so remove this obstacle. I ask him: If your car only has gears and a gas pedal and no brakes, how will it stop? If you remove the brakes from any system, it will lead to destruction.

He added: Mr. Davudi-Shamsi claimed that the public expenditure law and auditing are redundant controls and unnecessary.

If you want government companies to be successful, they must act in accordance with proper management and within the framework of the regulations of the Islamic Republic rather than, instead of first expressing the principles of a plan, going after land, buildings, furniture, luxuries and the like. The problem is not auditing.

According to our RESALAT reporter, following the statements of the supporters and opponents of the above-mentioned bill, Eynollah 'Ala, the spokesman of the joint committee, said: If the specialized committee gives its opinion on a subject and it is not agreeable to the honorable opponent, it does not mean that it has made a mistake. One of our problems in planning is that instead of giving the job to the expert, we give it to anyone, even if he has no understanding of the issue. The economic and finance committee naturally must take steps to eliminate the economic obstacles, such as reducing taxes or increasing exemptions for production growth, rather than creating a problem for the government companies.

He added: Essentially, for a control system based on what is common throughout the world, the auditor and supervisor must be independent, so that the auditor is not under the influence of the related organization. This is precisely the philosophy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance.

In continuation, the representative of the government spoke and said: The government and the Majles share the view that order and financial regulation should exist, and there is no doubt in this area. We have a government accounting system that supervises the government institution, and the public expenditure law was devised according to this system. But when we accept having economic companies in the country that work on the basis of trade principles, these trade principles also require their own controls and special supervision, and this is exactly what we are saying.

The most commonly appropriate method for financial supervision and control in the government companies throughout the entire world is inspection and auditing.

He pointed out: We believe that the affairs of the people must be conferred on the people, and they should handle them themselves.

In conclusion, he said: Our problem in regulating accounts is the lack of the expert cadre needed for this purpose. In the reconstruction period, we must, jointly with training experts in individual and other fields, place the necessary value on accountants and auditors.

In conclusion, Mr. Safa'i, the head of the public expenditure tribunal, said in agreement with the rejection of this bill: It is understood that the revenues of government companies must be under the control of these companies, while according to the Constitution all revenues and expenditures must be used in accordance with regulations.

He added: So far, no one has put pressure on the Majles to send the budget of the government companies along with the annual budget of the country to the Majles, because so far there has been resistance, and most government companies have not submitted to it.

He added: Under the present circumstances in our country, the accounting system is very weak. If the auditor interferes, the accounting office also interferes, and the law itself interferes.

The auditor examines in accordance with the law. But one of our problems is that they want no supervision to exist. The weaker the supervision, the more there will be violations.

The report of our reporter on the continuation of this session indicates that following the speech of Mr. Safa'i, the bill was put to a vote and not ratified.

The next open session of the Majles was postponed to Sunday of next week.

* 12 May

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[Excerpt]

Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles

Legal division of the Majles. The open session of the Majles was held yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.

In this session, following the statements of the representatives of Marand, Tabestan and Birjand, the Majles went into session.

Karim Shafe'i, the Representative of Marand

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Karim Shafe'i, the representative of Marand, who emphasized: "Contrary to common speeches in which the issues and problems of the executive branch and sometimes the judicial branch are analyzed, I intend to discuss the problems of the Majles."

He added: Contrary to what some of those interested in power and the power of the Majles imagine, I do not

regard the power and influence of the Majles as resulting from harsh criticism, blaming the government [the executive branch] for the faults of others, baseless questioning and impeachment, reliance on external realities or praise of the Majles. Rather, I believe that the degree of power of the Majles lies in its actions.

The Majles will be in charge of affairs when it acts as the head of a body rather than the tail. What is essential is reliance on God, being sufficiently knowledgeable and properly and truthfully engaging in intelligent analysis and decisions based on the capabilities, resources, needs, limitations and priorities. The Majles must be a symbol of order and discipline, ethics and piety and its representatives the best in terms of religion, wisdom and thought, those who act as a head of the body of the society. They should think in terms of principles, draft the strategies of the regime free of emotions and with resolve, make decisions on important matters and oversee proper implementation.

The speaker then referred to order in the Majles and said: Let us confess to the bitter fact that at least in the course of the third Majles, thus far the open sessions have never started without delay, and after starting, the meetings have always been problematic in terms of orderly procedure, coupled with doubts and difficulties. The majority of the Majles committees are the same. Why?

Can this Majles, with this lack of order, oversee the order of the executive and judicial systems of the country and the timely, proper and orderly implementation of the affairs of the people and the country? How can one who eats dates prohibit the eating of dates?

Is being a representative not the first and last job and legislating the primary duty of a representative? Why is it so?

This is a question to which the answer can restore order and discipline to the Majles and increase the people's trust and the power of the Majles vis-a-vis the other two powers.

Also, in connection with legislation, Mr. Karim Shafe'i pointed out: Statistics show that about 70 percent of the laws ratified in the third Majles were amendments and addenda, which means that during the ratification process, all aspects of the laws were not examined thoroughly, that in every decision something was missed or ignored or incorrectly evaluated. In the least, the ill effects of such legislation are the instability of laws and organization, lack of public trust in the laws, and reckless waste of the capital and time of the country. When laws should remain stable for 25 years, our country's 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] budget law has been amended for 5 years. Although less than 2 years have passed since the plan was ratified, more than 10 amendments have been or are being raised in the Majles. The internal bylaws of the Majles during this period of time have been amended dozens of time. Numerous ministries have been established and after a short time abolished or combined. The export-import law has been frequently changed, amended and completed in the course of one decade. The same is true of other important, destiny-making laws of the country.

Is the reason not the failure of the Majles to make the necessary and sufficient use of expert opinion? Is one of the reasons not the failure to examine history and failure to carefully conduct precise scientific and theoretical examinations of matters? Does lack of sufficient familiarity with sources and resources, limitations, needs and priorities in this issue not play an essential role? In a world in which the most trivial issues require specialization, can one expect the representative in the various levels of education and expertise to make appropriate decisions about the most essential and most important, definitive affairs of the country and sometimes the world relying on their own personal information and studies alone? Should we still write laws and devise strategies in committees? Has the time not come for a fundamental rethinking and revision of the system, the methods of preparation, writing, examination and ratification of proposals and bills?

Then, referring to the "existence of opponents and supporters" of a vote of confidence, supervision and control, questions, research, investigation and impeachment, he said:

I consider the existence of opponents and supporters of the government in the Majles a gift of the revolution and the Islamic Republic and emphasize that the serious activities of the opponents of the government in the past and present show that the regime is democratic and that the will of the people governs the Islamic Republic. But the question is, are the representatives, both the opponents and the supporters, sufficiently familiar with the capabilities, knowledge, talents, initiative, creativity, experience and methods and administrative ability of each one of the ministers?

Has the Majles given its vote of confidence to some of the gentlemen knowing their weaknesses, or have the weaknesses become apparent later? Why do we not identify the weaknesses and the weak sooner?

The Majles does not have the necessary tools to identify administrators and evaluate organizations. Evaluation is often based on personal opinion of the representatives and their personal, limited, and primitive information. Let us stop repeating the same decisions, testing and mistakes. An arrangement must be made for the representatives to evaluate the high-level administrators all over the country; evaluate the programs in their organizations, their supervision and administrative abilities, with thorough and overall knowledge; and base their questions, impeachment and votes of confidence on them, to oppose or support each minister on the basis of reasons and evidence. With an overall, complete understanding, as such, no longer will the members of the

government and the representatives of the Majles blame each other for the shortcomings, backwardness and probable errors and take unjustifiable credit for successes.

In continuation, he pointed out: I wish every servant of the regime realized that being a member of the government, the Majles, or the judicial branch is an honor; we are the branches and leaves of a greater whole, the sapling of which was planted by our Imam of the Oppressed and irrigated with the blood of thousands of martyrs, and now the religious guardian is trying, with clear vision, to perpetuate its freshness and life.

Shafe'i added: I am certain that with a little contemplation and planning our country will be able to have one of the most successful legislative parliaments in the world. I clearly see this capability in the country and the Majles.

In conclusion, the representative of Marand offered reminders to the executive officials of the country.

Qahreman Rahmani, the Representative of Takestan

The representative of Takestan considered the actions of the government [the executive branch] in the area of attaining economic balance as lacking legal grounds.

Qahreman Rahmani, from Takestan, was the second speaker.

Concerning the policy of economic balance, he said: This year, we have witnessed and are witnessing the increase in the price of some goods by the government, which has naturally caused and will cause an increase in the price of other goods in the private sector and is like a piece of stone dropped in a pool of water, the ripples from which reach other parts, when no control is imposed by the government.

The bazaar, too, in all areas, increases the prices as much as it can on the basis of this increase by the government.

Here, what can the low-income and vulnerable strata of the society do on fixed salaries? How can they tolerate such high prices and price increases, with the government all the while claiming that the price of goods in our country is very low compared to that of our neighbors. This is true. When we traveled abroad, we witnessed this. But there are several basic differences between our country and the neighboring countries that should be noted.

Firstly, in our country there has been an Islamic revolution; we have Islamic and revolutionary values; and observing social justice is obligatory, whereas it is not important to the neighboring countries, where there are huge class differences. Can our country have and tolerate such class differences?

Secondly, they have higher incomes than the people of our society, particularly the workers and employees. The evidence is the flood of applicants going abroad to work and gain income.

Thirdly, the health and welfare as well as other conditions are quite different from ours.

Why do the officials continuously compare the prices of other countries with ours and conclude that prices are very low and must be raised?

He added: Recently, one has been hearing that coupons will no longer be made available for chickens and eggs and these products will be sold on the open market, whereas the government regularly gave its assurances that basic goods would continue to be rationed and subsidies would not be eliminated until the vulnerable strata have sufficient income.

Reading Paragraph 4 of the general policies of the five-year plan (p. 56), Qahreman Rahmani continued:

This paragraph states that subsidies within the framework of national social security be gradually eliminated and subsidies be paid only for low-income people. Has this been done?

Referring to Paragraph 5.1 of the general policies concerning the increase in the price of some goods, the speaker said: In this paragraph, consideration has been given to permission to increase prices, but support for low-income people has also been included. Various prices must be imposed. The government must not be involved in certain items and then state that the Majles has allowed it.

On the other hand, price increases must be regulated.

I would like to thank the office of administrative justice for revoking the regulations of the Ministry of Energy concerning the increase in electrical connection fees and water prices and the circular letter by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance as well as the regulations of other organizations that are against the law.

Rahmani added: Based on Paragraph 4, Note 22, of the five-year plan, creating a balance between the salaries and benefits of government employees with consideration for inflation in order to prevent their purchasing power through granting non-cash aid, provided the needed funds are provided in the annual budget, is one of the duties of the government, and which the government should project in its annual budget and extend non-cash aid simultaneously with the increase in prices, in order to ease the pressure on the low-income strata.

The representative of Takestan continued: Even if we reach the highest level of economic growth, and the policy of economic balance is implemented quite successfully, naturally, this will not happen in less than 5-10 years. During this period, how do you want to protect the true owners of the revolution, the oppressed and the barefooted? If they abandon the trenches of the revolution and leave the scene, what is the use of economic growth and economic balance? It is necessary for the

government, in implementing the plan, to clarify precisely what articles and paragraphs are being implemented, in which case the differences of opinion will be eliminated.

In another part of his speech, Rahmani spoke about the foreign policy in regards to relations with the United States and said: In this case, the Imam, the grand Leader [Khamene'i] of the revolution and the Majles have frequently stated our position and said decisively that we cannot have any relationship with the United States.

The slogan of Death to America has existed and continues to exist, and this notion has been verified several times by the people, the Majles and the Leader. In this country, no authority or personality, even if he means well, has the right to do such a thing [establish relations with the U.S.A.]. Therefore, U.S. military or cargo airplanes coming to Iran or the murmuring of some of the gentlemen in this regard is quite a deviation, and the Majles must put a decisive stop to it.

Elsewhere, he said: "Relations between Iran and the United States are impossible. The simple-minded, who imagine that our economic and political problems will be resolved through establishing relations with the West, in particular the United States, are quite mistaken, because the revolutionary children of the Imam will never allow the values of the revolution and Islam to be items for negotiation."

Seyyed Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh, the Representative of Birjand and Nohbandan

The last pre-agenda speaker was Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh, the representative of Birjand and Nohbandan, who referred to the first Majles (7 Khordad [28 May]) and considered the explanations and clarifications of the articles of the Constitution fairly and unambiguously necessary and, in connection with the extraordinary importance of the legislative branch and the Council of Guardians, said:

Although the legislative branch is independent, the totality of the representatives of the Majles and the Council of Guardians has been cited in Article 57 of the Constitution as superior to other branches. Article 57 was very important to the great leader of the revolution, the Imam of the people (God's blessing be upon him), who in a letter dated 4/2/68 [24 April 1989] concerning the election of the [Assembly of] Experts for the amendment of the Constitution, in Paragraph 6, makes the reference: "The Council for the Discernment of Expediency is for resolving the problems of the regime and consultation with the leader, provided it is not a power at the level of other powers." This phrase shows how much attention and emphasis the Imam gave Article 57, the powers governing the Islamic Republic of Iran and the independence of the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Here, I consider it proper and necessary to request that the honorable Speaker and the Majles representatives pay careful attention to the annual decisions of the honorable Council for the Discernment of Expediency and the annual decisions of the honorable National Security Council by consulting and asking the views of the honorable Council of Guardians and a group of competent legal experts so that the representatives become informed about the details of the decisions and their basis. Ultimately, what was on the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] agenda of the honorable Council for the Discernment of Expediency and the honorable National Security Council should be offered to the honorable Council of Guardians along with the opinions of the Majles in conformity with Article 57, on the independence of the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Since in accordance with Article 98 of the Constitution, "Interpretation of the Constitution is the duty of the Council of Guardians, with a three-fourths vote," all the decisions of the Council for the Discernment of Expediency and the National Security Council must be presented to the honorable Council of Guardians, to ensure that the principle of the independence of the branches is at all times upheld.

He added: When the Imam emphasized that the Council for the Discernment of Expediency should not be a power at the level of other powers, certainly the National Security Council was also included in this matter, because according to Article 176, "in order to secure the national interests and protect the Islamic revolution, territorial integrity and national rule, the National Security Council will be established."

Ha'erizadeh continued: Determining the defense security policies of the country within the general framework of determining policies is the duty of the Leader. These general policies of the regime which are determined by the honorable Leader are formed after consultation with the Council for the Discernment of Expediency (in accordance with Article 110 of the Constitution). On the whole, according to Paragraph 8 of Article 110, in regards to the duties and authority of the Leader, the resolution of those problems of the regime which are not possible through regular channels will be the duty of the Council for the Discernment of Expediency.

He pointed out: Considering Article 57, according to which the branches are independent from each other, and noting Paragraph 6 of the Imam's letter dated 4/2/68 [24 April 1989], which states that the Council for the Discernment of Expediency should not be a power at the level of other powers, at the outset of the anniversary of the establishment of the Majles, reviewing these articles, clarifying discussions and interpretations of these articles by the honorable Council of Guardians, examining and becoming aware of the details of the decisions of the honorable Council for the Discernment of Expediency and the honorable National Security Council as well as full knowledge of the honorable Majles about these decisions are very necessary and proper. At least if our representatives are not informed and aware of how the decisions of the honorable National Security Council are made, we must be carefullu study the decisions of the honorable Council for the Discernment of Expediency

and the honorable National Security Council during the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]. Most importantly, at any time, with full awareness, studying all aspects, full understanding and systematic and constant knowledge about the opinions of the revered Leader and the honorable Council for the Discernment of Expediency and the honorable National Security Council, we can examine and discuss the proposals and bills and ratify the laws. If we do not study and discuss these decisions regularly, we will see lack of coordination occurring in our work and in their decisions.

He also said: A great majority of the honorable representatives of the Majles are uninformed about the details of the decisions of the Council for the Discernment of Expediency and the very important decisions of the National Security Council. Our information in these cases is at the level of information in newspapers. In some instances, the examination of the Majles proposals and expression of views take far too long. In some cases, the Council for the Discernment of Expediency and the National Security Council have ratified laws, and the right of the Majles has been violated. None of them have the right to legislate. Legislation is the right of the Majles. Leave the job of the Majles to the Majles, and send the information, statistics and necessary analyses along with the legislative and judicial bills to the Majles so that the Majles and the representatives are able to engage in more important tasks and the Majles does not suffer from stagnation.

Ha'erizadeh asked: What have you asked of the Majles that has not been ratified? Which important bill has been rejected? The majority of the bills have been ratified. In order to achieve justice, which according to Article 156 is the duty of the judicial branch, what bills and laws does the judicial branch want to offer? Which one of your bills has not been ratified? What problems do you have regarding proper implementation of the laws in Paragraph 3 of Article 156? Let the Majles know. Please verbally indicate whatever bill you find necessary to take proper steps to prevent crime and rehabilitate the criminals. The point should be brought up: Why are those who have merely tossed in the blank ballots for the confirmation of the ministers in the flower vases, those who have voted in a confused or collective manner, now shouting at some of the ministers?

Ha'erizadeh asked for a decision to be made concerning the cases that, according to him, have remained ambiguous to the people, and concerning which the representatives also have no answer.

He continued: The people question things. Why is it that while this country has problems with a single dollar in foreign currency and a patient remains outside the medical council office for months, yet a haji [reference to one who is wealthy] with calloused hands who has been depositing money for 10 years and has been waiting [to gain profit] is given foreign currency at the floating and free rate. In the same time, students' education abroad is disrupted because of a small amount of foreign currency and a self-sacrificer with a damaged spinal chord suffers in pain and needs foreign currency for treatment.

What happened to the case of the $20 million which was given by Mr. Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani, the former representative of Iran at the United Nations, to 'Abbas Minachi, who is apparently the contact with the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq]? What happened to this $20 million? Was it exchanged for bullets to hit the chests of our mobilization members? Who is guilty in this connection, and where did they end up?

In conclusion, the speaker said: I request that the president present his report on his trip to the Majles, as is customary in trips to other countries.

Statements of the Speaker of the Majles

In the open session of the Majles yesterday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the Speaker of the Majles, referred to the surgery of the grand Leader and said: We thank God that the operation of Ayatollah Khamene'i was successful, and according to the information provided by the medical team, the follow up to the operation was performed well, and his prognosis is good.

The Speaker of the Majles added: God willing, he will lead us for long years to come, and I thank the Leader's medical team for carrying out their duty well.

Ratification

The report of the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT on the open session of the Majles yesterday indicates that the first round of discussions of the defense affairs committee concerning the rejection of the proposal to establish an air transport company affiliated with the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran was presented as the first item on the agenda, which, after statements by opponents and supporters and the explanation of the spokesman of the committee and the representative of the government [the executive branch], was put to a vote. The rejection of this proposal was not ratified by the representatives, and they agreed to the establishment of this company. [Passage omitted on ratifications]

On the Margins of the Majles

A British parliamentary delegation will soon travel to Tehran for discussions and exchange of views with the representatives of the Majles.

Mr. Mohtashami, the representative of Tehran, announced this news yesterday, quoting what he had heard in the Majles, and said: Apparently, through coordination by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Majles, an agreement has been made for a British parliamentary delegation to come to Iran, and the Majles has announced that if this delegation comes to Iran and asks to meet with the representatives, they will agree, but we will not invite them.

Following the publication of a report in a newly-founded newspaper concerning the defense of the minister of education by Mr. Do'a'i, the representative of Tehran, in regards to the issue of his impeachment, Mr. Do'a'i sent explanations to the newspaper in which he states: You will recall, in the second Majles, a group from the judicial committee was commissioned to investigate the office of legal services at the Hague, which was part of the prime minister's office, and it had prepared a handwritten report and insisted on having it published and reported in the Majles. Before the publication, the honorable Speaker of the Majles at the time not only changed and omitted the untrue claims and accusations in the report and at the end of it, but essentially did not allow it to be reported in the Majles. As you see, the Speaker and the leadership at that time did not allow obstinacy or improper forgiveness with regard to the attacks of some of the friends, whereas today, they are not only totally at their disposal, but they even interrupt at the podium those who were yesterday's friends and today's sympathizers.

* 15 May

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[Excerpt]

Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles

Legislative and parliamentary division. The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.

In this session, following the statements of the representative of Ferdows and Abadan, the Majles went into session.

Below you shall read the speeches of the pre-agenda speakers and the report on yesterday's open session of the Majles.

Mohammad Reza Tavassoli, the Representative of the People of Ferdows and Tabas

The implementation of the economic policies is more difficult than the eight-year war, because we must both repair the resulting destruction and prepare the grounds for the growth and development of the country.

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Mohammad Reza Tavassoli, the representative of the people of Ferdows and Tabas.

Asking God for long life for the grand Leader [Khamene'i] and for his speedy recovery, he said:

The special conditions of the region, with the presence of the American forces in Iraqi Kurdistan, have created a situation in which the Islamic Republic must pursue the issue most sensitively. The criminal United States, after apparent victory over Iraq, is trying to establish long-term control over this region. In this connection, it uses all its elements and will preserve Saddam until it can reach its objectives.

The general plan of the United States is to preserve Israel and disarm Iraq in order to secure the views of Israel, to enable Israel to dominate an Islamic country in the future, given the weapons it has. The National Security Council must make use of the directives of the grand leader and pursue the issues carefully in order to be successful in various areas as in the past.

He added: One important issue that is discussed in the society is the policy of economic balance as well as, naturally, inflation and high prices. It is the duty of the officials in charge to clarify the policies of the five-year plan for the people. Firstly, we must take into consideration that the budget is limited, and the government does not have a free hand to invest in all areas. This limitation dictates to us to move towards fundamental projects so as in the future to both reduce our dependence on foreign countries and create new jobs.

In this connection, in the 5-year plan, principal emphasis is placed on investments that over a period of 5-10 years will build the basis for the economic development of the country. For example, in the area of water, 10 billion tomans were allocated for the protection and preservation of the drinking water networks of the cities, which were omitted and replaced with several important dam projects. One of the dams to be built is the Karun dam, which will produce 2,000 megawatts of electricity and will save $400 million in fuel with the production of this amount of electricity for other than agricultural uses. Now, is it fair not to build this dam and to spend the budget allocated for it instead on the current expenditures for water for cities? Within the framework of this policy, the government is responsible to collect from the people the current and diminishing cost of drinking water in the cities. In collecting these costs, the lower stratum of the society has been taken into consideration, such that up to 25 cubic meters of water are free for every family, and above this amount the price of water is at an ascending rate. Now, if anyone wants to use more and waste it, he must pay for it. The greatest pressure is on individuals with swimming pools in their homes who still do not pay the cost of procuring and transmitting it.

In regards to electricity, it is the same. The government has reduced its aid in rials since 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986], and in the 5-year plan, we have projected 149 billion tomans for investment in the electricity industry, of which only 7 billion tomans are paid by the government, and the rest must be provided by the Ministry of Energy from domestic sources. In the course of the plan, 7,000 megawatts of electricity must be produced. In regards to pricing electricity, again the pressure on the lower strata has been taken into consideration. In other words, for up to 250 kilowatts, which is the normal use for a family, the price is fixed. Higher consumption is calculated at an ascending rate. Now, if

there are people who protest that they have chandeliers at home or a store keeper lights up his store with 10 strong bulbs, this is their own business, and they must pay for it. Now, in regards to electricity, the Majles objects to our ratifying a plan to keep the price stable. Two things are possible, either to project a rial budget for electricity, which would require us to eliminate several important developmental projects, or not have any new investments, in which case we must expect regular blackouts and the shutdown of factories in the country. Are those who protest the five-year plan and oppose such pricing prepared to eliminate the developmental projects in their constituent area and, instead, have the government subsidize and keep prices the same?

Tavassoli added: In the course of the past 12 years, dollars at the rate of 7 tomans have filled the pockets of some people. The oil revenues belong to all the people, and monopolizing the affairs is not in the interest of the oppressed. Have the goods produced in factories that in the past operated with 7-toman dollars reached the lower classes in the society or have they been sold on the open market?

In connection with prices, the only issue that can be raised is the incompetence of the government system, with work being finished at too high a price, the waste of the ministries and the low output of their work. Although this problem does not involve more than 10 percent of the cost on the whole, this basic problem must be eliminated. In some areas in which the government cannot provide service, it must make use of the private sector, not as a monopoly, but in competition.

The methods used in reaching world economic balance are clear, and we must choose one method. The implementation of economic policies is more difficult than the eight-year war, because we must both eliminate the destruction resulting from the war and also prepare the grounds for future growth and development. This important matter requires the coordination and cooperation of all the forces in the country. All the individuals who have worked for the revolution in the past 12 years must cooperate at this juncture and support the government of Mr. Hashemi. The problem that exists in the implementation of the policies of balance is a dual pressure on the lower strata of the society. The government must devise appropriate ways to help these strata. Although the policy of the government is to place essential goods at the disposal of the people through coupons, this is not sufficient. Rather, it must provide the lower strata with more services through institutions, such as the committee on emergencies and welfare. It must provide for the government employees who have been harmed more than anyone else in the implementation of the balance policies. I suggest a percentage of the revenues from the sale of foreign currency which previously was placed at the disposal of special sectors be allotted to public services so that the people can see that the government works for the welfare for the public, especially the oppressed stratum.

He pointed out: In the course of 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], the government achieved much success in implementing these policies, including the area of steel production, in which it has been able to increase the capacity of steel to twice the amount. And Mobarakeh Steel, which was supposed to start operations at the end of 1372 [20 March 1994], God willing, will start operations in Mehr [23 September-22 October] this year. I must thank Engineer Mahluji and his colleagues. Last year, the government was successful in the area of controlling the increase in inflation and in production. On the whole, these policies have been such that factories have worked at full capacity, and naturally the problem of hoarding has almost been uprooted.

He emphasized: In the area of the communication and transportation network, we have basic problems which require serious action. The railroad, which is the best means of cargo transportation, is in such a condition that we have not been able, after 12 years, to complete the Bafeq-Bandar 'Abbas railroad. This requires new policy making. In this connection, it is necessary to provide an appropriate step, such as the Tehran underground railway, to carry on this important task so that we can expand the national railroads outside the existing framework.

With regard to the network of roads in the country, under the present circumstances, nearly 1,000 projects are being carried out simultaneously, slowly and without any particular priority. It is worrisome. The priorities must be identified and the roads that have priority given more of a budget. If not, none of these roads will be completed in the way that we want them to be.

For instance, the 52-km Ferdows-Bojestan road, which is a part of the Bandar 'Abbas-Mashhad road, was begun 10 years ago, and so far several contractors have changed, but it is still unclear when it will be completed. Mr. Sa'idi-Kia promised to start the asphalting of the portion of the road that is ready. God willing, this year he will act on his promise of last year.

He added: The issue that Mr. Hashemi must seriously pursue is the situation of thousands of small water projects about which so far no decision has been made. Previously these projects were the responsibility of the [Ministry of] Construction Jihad, and people have provided help in most of these projects.

Mohammad Sa'id Ansari, the Representative of Abadan Criticism of the Representative of Abadan of the Current Situation with Regard to Khuzestan Province and the City of Abadan.

Mohammad Sa'id Ansari, from Abadan, was the second and last pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday.

Expressing his gratitude to God for granting health to the grand Leader, he honored 3 Khordad [24 May], the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr.

He continued: In the past three years, particularly in the past year, important problems have occurred throughout the province, especially in the city of Abadan, which hurt every citizen of Abadan and Khuzestan. I have mentioned all the problems that have occurred in Abadan several times in a brotherly fashion, but unfortunately, no one has heeded them. The problem of groups and factions is one of the problems that the noble people of Abadan can no longer tolerate, a people who have endured 10 years of homelessness and bitter life. Most importantly, they cannot tolerate the irrational and irresponsible attitude of some of the former officials of the Migrants Foundation and have kept silent for the sake of Islam, the revolution and love of the Imam. They can not stand to see the same people who treated them badly in those difficult years now in charge of some of the offices and once again wanting to cause problems for the people. Hence, considering that the governor of the district must not support any particular representative and must consider the issues from outside the perspectives of groups and factions, unfortunately, it is observed that the governor and lieutenant governor of Abadan follow the attitudes and methods of some of the former officials of the Foundation.

For instance, in distributing air conditioners, when the honorable government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, due to the excessive destruction during the war and the other problems of the people, decides to distribute seven items free of charge among the people of the cities and villages, unfortunately, it is observed that the governor and the lieutenant governor themselves, with the coordination and presence of one of the representatives, distribute the air conditioners in the villages. This type of propaganda leads to discussions about the rest of the problems. Why should a governor place some of the essential goods needed by the people at the disposal of one representative for distribution? What kind of action is this? How long must the city of Abadan and the patient and noble people of that city be the target of your injustice and selfishness? Here, I must announce that firstly the brotherly reminders and meetings and the needed messages, unfortunately, did not affect your decision at all. In connection with the appointment of the head of the Abadan Chamber of Commerce, considering my frequent reminders to the minister of commerce and his deputies, unfortunately, not only did they not want to know the facts, but this action is improper and intolerable to the noble people of Abadan. The minister of commerce must not play with the emotions and spirit of the noble migrant people who have tasted a bitter life of exile and homelessness for 10 years. It is not in your best interests to stand against the people. It is a government of the people. The commerce officials of the province and the ministry must regard the dignity of every individual.

It is astounding why some of the lieutenant governors have been chosen as distinguished lieutenant governors. Has some sort of standard and value been into consideration in the province for this action? If so, what can one expect of other lieutenant governors who have a history of active service in the province? I am astonished, Mr. Governor General of Khuzestan. You are either aware of all these problems and are keeping silent or do not know of them. If you say that you do not know of them, it is incredible. And if you know them and are keeping silent, this is not in your best interests. The critical problems of Abadan and the issues involved in selecting a distinguished lieutenant governor are among the issues that raise questions. Do you have an answer? The people rightfully expect you to prevent such factionalism and group actions and personal issues and not give away 150 of confiscated carpets from the public treasury for propaganda for one representative. This is the question. The people are aware. Do you have an answer?

Why do you not prevent the political problems in the city of Abadan in which a governor imposes his influence? You are responsible. Have you compared the work of the governors and lieutenant governors? Have you studied the evaluation of the honorable people of Abadan about the officials that have been appointed on your behalf? I believe that you are aware of the problems, and I also know the reason why you do not deal with them. I wanted to resolve the issues in person. Unfortunately, they were not resolved, and I was forced to mention them. I have not brought up even a small percent of the problems. I just referred to them. I hope you will pay attention to the problems of the people and the existing facts. One must ask, which lieutenant governor has been in office in one district for nine years? Examine the issues first hand. Do not let them play with the emotions of the people who are now returning to Abadan after 10 years, and do not allow the treasury of the commerce and reconstruction offices to be used for propaganda purposes.

Ansari continued: The high price of electricity used in the oppressed and tropical areas has created problems for the people. Mr. Zangeneh, the honorable minister of energy, when will your organization pay attention to the problems of the oppressed? I believe that the rate of electricity is breaking the backs of the people. Review it, because the people have problems. Secondly, why do you not implement the reconstruction budget for transmitting the Arvand Kenar electricity from Abadan, the funds (50 million tomans) of which you took from the reconstruction headquarters in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]?

I want you to respond, because you have not responded to the letter of a number of the honorable representatives of Khuzestan. It is necessary to investigate the issue comprehensively and seriously. Pay attention to the issues. In distributing the oil company homes for the departments, do not disregard the share of the Arvand Kenar district. Give special advantage to employees who were in the city of Abadan and Arvand Kenar during the war and value their services.

Honorable commander of the security forces of Khuzestan, resolve the problems of our sailors in regards to

the extension and change of their naval passports, and do not allow them to face more problems than they already do. In regards to some of the gentlemen who do not allow us to defend the people's rights, I announce here that as a representative of the noble people of Abadan, I will defend the rights of these people with all my power and ability and am not afraid of such a climate and other problems.

He added: I ask the honorable governor general of Khuzestan and the honorable minister of interior to stop these factionalist games in Abadan. Otherwise, problems might arise. I ask the honorable head of the judicial branch, Ayatollah Yazdi, considering that the law is clear about not issuing eviction rulings on residences occupied by the honorable refugees of the imposed war, to issue instructions to the Justice Departments of Mahshahr, Shiraz, Tehran and some other cities to stop this lawlessness. Unfortunately, even though I personally met with your honor and have sent frequent reminders and numerous letters, still they cause problems for our migrants. Please instruct them to stop these illegal actions. I remind the officials of the Bushehr nuclear power plant and the Iranian Atomic Energy Agency to firstly stop this injustice, and in this intolerable heat, not to stop the water and electricity of our migrants in the small town of the Bushehr nuclear power plant. Secondly, these dear people cannot continue to live on the small salary that they receive from the Migrants Foundation, let alone pay rent and the cost of electricity and water. Numerous reminders and letters have not solved the problem. Do not allow the people to have to confront you. Accept the problems logically.

In conclusion, he said: I expect the Hezbollah nation to participate in the anniversary of the death of the Imam even more actively and on a larger scale this year than they did last year, in honor of this important and great day.

Ratifications

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was a report on the committee on councils and internal affairs in regards to rejecting the proposal to support farmers and tribes to enable them to produce more.

Robati, the spokesman of the committee of councils and internal affairs, explained the reason for rejecting this proposal and said in this connection: This proposal is not in support of production. Rather, it deals with the outlaws, the violators and those who cause insecurity with illegal arms. Hence, it is not at all related to animal husbandry and agriculture.

He added: We believe that the responsible ministries must help and work to prepare agricultural and animal husbandry institutions to ensure more production and help the farmers and tribes. When a farmer has to wait for months to procure agricultural machinery or he must run around to find fodder, this proposal cannot help ensure more production.

In conclusion, he pointed out: The law has anticipated dealing with outlaws and violators and those who have illegal arms, and the judicial branch will deal seriously with such individuals.

In opposition to the rejection of the proposal, 'Ali Movahedi-Saveji, the representative of the people of Saveh, said: This proposal is directly related to the issue. Providing security and disarming the bullies and those who use arms to threaten the tribesmen and farmers indirectly affect agricultural production. If a person does not feel secure and his life is in danger, he certainly cannot work hard towards agricultural production. Hence, the reasons of the committee are truly very weak and unjustified. Mostafa Faregh, the representative of Dezful, in support of rejecting the proposal, said: In protecting the tribes and farmers, no one has any doubt. But in connection with their security, thank God, the security forces, most proudly and effectively, are actively present to secure the country. Therefore, there is no need for this proposal.

In opposition to the rejection of the proposal, 'Ali Kamyar, the representative of Urumia, presented his reasons and in connection with the above-mentioned proposal, said:

Arming tribal leaders in western Azarbaijan region is considered a hindrance to more production by farmers and tribes. Look at the statistics in our province and see how many from the tribes have migrated to the cities. They have to migrate because of insecurity. You say we have laws. If you have laws, why do so many farmers and tribal people migrate to cities? The tribal chiefs who were armed before the revolution, in accordance with the law, must be disarmed and not allowed to bother others. The tribal chiefs prevent agricultural and tribal production. Why, then, should the tribal chiefs be armed?

He pointed out: At the present, the area is unsafe at night because the outlaws and tribal chiefs are armed and cause problems. The tribesmen and farmers say, Collect their arms so that we can have security. Therefore, this proposal is to protect the interests of farmers and tribesmen.

'Ali Karam Mohammadian was the next supporter of rejecting the proposal. He stated that the notes to the proposal are not in support of the farmers and tribesmen, but rather the problem of these gentlemen is one of security, and said: Legally, it must be proven when and how the security forces armed the tribal chiefs. If this is true, the gentlemen should identify it, so that the issue can be investigated as soon as possible. If the tribal chiefs have been armed, I am seriously against the arming of the tribal chiefs, and we must deal with them. Hence, there is no need for this law.

The representative of the Ministry of Interior, explaining the government view of the proposal, said: The issue is raised in the Majles as to whether there is something going on in the country, whether there is chaos, the tribal chiefs are armed, or the farmers and tribesmen have no

security in order to produce. I state clearly that there are no statistics on this issue, and there are no such problems in the country.

He pointed out: The law for combining the security forces states who must be disarmed. Hence, this problem has been addressed in the law, and in this regard, we have not nullified the law. The friends who had prepared this proposal had done so before the law for combining the security forces, but this law has clarified all the cases of the proposal, and, therefore, there is no need for this proposal.

Also, after the explanations of one of the writers, the general points of the proposal were put to a vote and not ratified. **Second Item on the Agenda:**

[Passage omitted on report of committee investigating deputies' questions]

The third item on the agenda was the request for a proposal to attach a single article to the election laws.

Hoseini-Shahrudi, one of the signatories to the proposal, briefly explained the above-mentioned proposal and said: The spirit of the proposal is to restrict the advertising for national elections, including the presidential, Majles, Assembly of Experts and Islamic Council elections. You see that election advertising is, unfortunately, in the Western style, and an Islamic style does not exist in this connection.

The first opponent of the proposal was Hoseini-Almadani, the representative of Lamrad, who said: Any action that reduces the presence of the people in the elections will certainly not be in the best interests of the revolution. It would not be proper for us to eliminate all the problems and methods that have been used in advertising so far and remove the people from the scene. Of course, without a doubt, expensive advertising that results in quarrels, assassinations of character and insulting the dignity of factions and candidates is certainly not Islamic.

He added: We ratified a law on election advertising in the committee on councils, which restricts advertising; writing on walls and on banners and putting loudspeakers on cars and car caravans are prohibited. We only allowed for one kind of brochure. Hence, restrictions on election advertising have been addressed in a law that was ratified by the committee, and there is no need for this proposal.

Harati, the representative of Sabzevar, spoke in support of the proposal and said: What matters is the enthusiasm and excitement of the people participating in the elections, the common sense and awareness of the people, and not hanging signs and posters. Such actions, unfortunately, have even gone further than Western propaganda. We must inform the people through the media and the press. Hence, if you want to create enthusiasm and excitement in the people, you cannot do so with a poster or a sign.

In continuation, he pointed out to the committee on councils and internal affairs: You restricted advertising for the Majles elections; however, there are elections, such as that for the councils, ahead of us, and you have not spoken about them.

In conclusion, Harati emphasized: This proposal includes all the elections in the country and is comprehensive.

'Ali 'Abdol-'Alizadeh, the representative of Urumia, spoke in opposition to the proposal, saying: The proposal that is presented is not for reform of the election law, but for prohibiting the omission of advertising. In a country in which there is advertising for shampoo, cheese puffs, and any other item, and there is even advertising on busses, is there no proper advertising to introduce a person? Should the fact that some in the country make bad advertisements be reason enough to eliminate advertising altogether? Is the representative who has done nothing during his four years on the same level as the one who has been very active; are there are no differences between them?

Suggesting that the people will not be fooled by excessive advertising, he said: In previous times, some people did a lot of advertising of themselves but did not receive the vote. We must allow the people to properly recognize the candidates. In my opinion, those who support this proposal have nothing to say to the people. Otherwise, a representative who has the ability to present himself to the people will not be afraid of proper advertising.

In conclusion, 'Abdol-'Alizadeh requested that the representatives not vote for this proposal.

The next supporter was Mohammad 'Ali Movahedi-Kermani, the representative of the people of Tehran, who first said: The statement that this proposal will put an end to advertising is not true. With this proposal, we do not want to eliminate advertising. We want advertising to be carried out properly.

He added: We must try to create a sound climate for the elections in the country. It is an insult to the people to imagine that the people will be influenced by posters and pictures and that the amount of advertising will determine whether a person will be elected. Why should people think that with so much advertising the officials are trying to get positions and status in the country? We must eliminate this supposition. This is a propaganda method which the people do not like, and will do nothing but dishearten the people.

Also, 'Ali Kamyar spoke in opposition to the proposal, considering it an obstacle to election advertising, and said in this connection: If you want to prevent excesses, you should not prevent freedom of advertising. Consider that more people vote in those areas where there are a lot of candidates. We must make an effort to have more people participate in the elections.

He continued: U.S. television broadcast a program about elections in other countries. It was stated that in Iran since the revolution there have been 14 elections, and in the Middle East it is ranked number one.

Kamyar also pointed out: We agree that in election advertising, the people must observe religious issues. Hence, the Ministry of Interior will stop it. This is unrelated to election laws.

Ahmad Rahbari, the representative of Razan, spoke in support of the proposal and said: In election advertising, sound advertising, Islamic, religious and legal advertising, must be imposed. Is it a proper method of advertising for a country to go in the streets and announce from loudspeakers that the person in question is a follower of the Imam's line and a supporter of the oppressed, vote for him? That would upset the people.

He also said: Why should a candidate use four tons of paint and not leave one wall untouched in the city?

In conclusion, he seriously rejected the government control of publicity and revoking freedom in elections.

The next opponent of the proposal was Mehrzad Sedqiani, the representative of Salmas, who said: This proposal cannot be implemented at all, because there should be advertising for a person to receive votes. Of course, in advertising, actions contrary to religious laws must be prohibited. But, where religious law is observed, we must allow proper advertising to take place. This proposal creates the restriction that those who are not well known will not be able to be elected to the Majles.

Also, Mr. Nowbakht, the representative of Rasht, spoke briefly in support of the proposal and asked the representatives to vote for it. It is worthy of note that because of the shortage of time, the examination of the proposal was postponed to the next open session.

The Majles will have an open session on Sunday next week.

On the Perimeters of the Majles

Mr. Movahhedi Saveji, the representative of the people of Saveh, in an interview with the parliamentary reporter of RESALAT about the claims about him made by Hadi Ghaffari, said: The main reason for the noise and insults of Mr. Ghaffari against me and accusing me of insulting his father is that in the pre-agenda speech I stated some facts about the so-called radical faction, and he wanted to minimize what I said.

He said: By raising improper and secondary issues, they are trying to divert the attention of the society away from their political intentions and their dangerous group methods, not realizing that the people, with full awareness and revolutionary growth, carefully keep track of the past and present of all the individuals and groups and distinguish the servants from the traitors and the forces that follow Velayat-e Faqih and the supporters of the oppressed and the constructive government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani from the opportunists, noise makers and hypocrites.

The representative of the people of Saveh said: But in connection with the matter of a house, I must say that with 11 dependents and more than 12 years of Islamic revolutionary life, I still do not have a house in Tehran. In accordance with the regulations of the country, since about 10 years ago, I have officially requested a piece of land from the urban land agency to build a shelter. After several years, a piece of land around the Moddarres freeway was given to me, which is 190 square meters, after the City Hall's regulations are carried out. With the passage of more than 2 years, because of lack of financial resources, I have not yet been able to complete it, and at the present, only 60 percent of the building is completed.

Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji added: If a representative of the Majles who has served for three terms and has no property, real estate, capital or factories takes measures to find housing and shelter for himself and his family, is this improper?

Those act improperly who have become possessors of capital and property contrary to the regulations of the country and through political wheeling and dealing.

The representative of Saveh continued: Mr. Hadi Ghaffari knows full well that I have not in the least insulted his father, Martyr Ghaffari, and would not do so. In fact, I was with his father in the temporary Police Department prison since 1342 [21 March 1963-20 March 1964]; we were friends and fellow combatants.

But Mr. Ghaffari himself, who is very insulting, likes to lash out at people for no reason.

Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji said: I have the right to ask Mr. Ghaffari where he has gotten all these foundations, factories and cultural institutions called Alhadi, with billions of rials of investments, and for what purpose? Do you use this capital to help the oppressed and the barefoot, or do you use it as an instrument of your propaganda and your faction?

The various people who come during the Majles to the spectator's seats expect to meet with their representatives. In this connection, yesterday several oppressed, poor people from a distant village had come to the Majles to visit with their representative. They told the parliamentary reporter of RESALAT, We have come here several times to meet with our representative and talk with him, but even though he was called over the intercom several times, and we waited for two hours, unfortunately, our representative has not come, and now it is 11 o'clock and we have to leave.

These villagers added: We request of you to publish this problem of ours, so that the representatives know that the problems and shortcomings have caused us to come

here, and it would be very nice for the representatives who came to the Majles because of our votes to pay attention to this point.

* 28 May

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[Text] **Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles. Legislative and parliamentary division. The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.**

In this session, following the statements of the representatives of Yazd, Mehran and Dehloran, Hamadan and Birjand, Mr. Karrubi spoke, and then the Majles went into session.

In this session, the bill on the university faculties returning to service was discussed and was not ratified. Also, the bill on the regulations on the entry of passenger cars in special cases was discussed, and the continuation of the session was postponed to today's session.

Seyyed Mohammad Razavi, the Representative of Yazd

In the early days of his presidency, Mr. Hashemi encouraged the people to consume. Are the warehouses full of goods so that the people will be encouraged to consume more?

The first pre-agenda speaker was Seyyed Mohammad Razavi-Yazdi, from Yazd.

Honoring the anniversary of the establishment of the Majles, he said: The Imam of the People [Khomeyni] considered the Majles at the head of the affairs and the center of all powers, and the grand leader [Khamene'i] mentioned it as the most responsible organization of the Islamic Republic.

In the history of governments, the existence of a vital, free, powerful Majles shows the life of that country, because the Majles is the house of the nation, and to weaken it will work towards eliminating national power in the government. I shall offer a few points on the high rank of this center of freedom and the current issues of the country.

1. While all the ministers introduced by the prime minister, Engineer Musavi, to the second Majles did not receive a majority vote of the Majles, for the first time in the history of the Islamic revolution, all members of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Cabinet received votes of confidence from this Majles. This itself is proof of the credibility and cooperation of the Majles with the government and the fondness of the representatives for him. But this vote does not rescind the duties and authority of the representatives based on Articles 70, 76, 80, 86, 88 and 89 of the Constitution.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in the farewell ceremonies at the Majles: "Now that there is no longer a war, make use of the rights that you have. Know that I will never complain."

The interpellation of Dr. Fazel, the former minister of health and treatment, and Mr. Najafi, the honorable minister of education, were both the result of the performance of the duty [of the Majles], and we witnessed that the honorable representatives of the Majles in both cases most freely and independently discussed and offered their votes. Obviously, any sort of reaction based on unkindness and bias which occurred in these two cases did not please God.

2. Based on Article 112 of the Constitution, the Council for the Discernment of Expediency was established to rule in cases when the ratifications of the Majles are not verified by the Council of Guardians. Obviously, the principle of legislation is only the duty of the Majles, and this honorable Council cannot remove an article from or add one to a law. The printing of the labor law under the heading "ratified by the Council for the Discernment of Expediency" is no more than an act of negligence. Undoubtedly, the Constitution has not anticipated more than one center for legislation in the country, and the Imam said, "The center of all powers and laws is the Majles."

3. One of the sources of pride of the third Majles is the severance of relations with the government of England due to the insult against Muslims and the unqualified support for Salman Rushdie, the infidel. The ratification of the Supreme Security Council concerning the establishment of economic relations with England is undoubtedly similar to other ratifications of this honorable council. But is it not the right of the Majles and the people to know why, following this ratification, the British government does not agree to establishing relations? Instead of stopping its support for Salman Rushdie, does it want to stop the support of Islamic Iran for the Hezbollah of Lebanon?

4. The expression of sadness by our dear, honorable president in the last Friday prayers was definitely not due to the publication of one or two free newspapers alongside several government newspapers or newspapers that are known to represent the capitalist class in the country. This expression of sadness may be a complaint about some other revolutionary and revered personalities, which will certainly be settled between them.

At the beginning of his presidency, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke in detail in his Friday prayers about persuading people to consume and the fact that now that the war is over, the people can no longer suffer hardship. The anxiety expressed concerned whether after the war the problems, which are certainly no less severe than during the war, are being forgotten. Are the warehouses full, and should the people be persuaded to consume? Obviously, after the creation of a spirit of expectation following the war, it will by very difficult for the people

to tolerate some of the problems. Today, the people must wait to buy even a capsule of butane gas.

We are still following the economic principles entitled "social justice" presented by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Friday prayer sermons in the few years since the war. Obviously, employing the forces effective during the war will be effective in breaking inflation in the period of reconstruction.

It is interesting that a newly-founded newspaper and magazine have written explicitly that Mr. Hashemi has deviated from his own beliefs concerning social justice as he argued in the Friday prayer sermons.

He continued: The initiative and farsightedness of the revered officials of the regime in keeping the Islamic Republic of Iran out of the Persian Gulf war created a grand, proud feeling in our nation, and the three-million-large march on 22 Bahman [11 February] proves it. But the ambiguities following the Persian Gulf war are worthy of note for the Majles and the people. Who caused the golden opportunity to implement Resolution 598 and establish a popular government in Iraq after the Persian Gulf war to be lost? Who caused more than a million Iraqi refugees to be imposed on us, refugees who are not compatible with our nation, neither politically nor morally and socially? The $15 million a day which is spent could be used to operate one or two industrial units, which are waiting idly to be operated.

Why should the honorable National Security Council of the honorable Ministry of the Foreign Affairs not decisively prevent the violations of some in this regard?

Although it is not clear whether the ambiguities stated in the above questions concern the National Security Council of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or another institution, the policy of the Islamic Republic concerning the Persian Gulf crisis has from the beginning, under the positions of the Leader, been devised by the National Security Council and signed by Ayatollah Khamene'i. Before the unconditional surrender of the rulers of Iraq to the United States, some people attacked the policy of the Islamic Republic and considered it demeaning, and the president of the regime of Iraq was like Khaled ebn Walid [an enemy general who went over to Islam and received the title the "Sword of God" from Prophet Mohammad]. But after it was proven that the positions of the Islamic Republic were correct, they attacked Saddam.

Another point worthy of note is that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his recent Friday prayer sermons, speaking of the suspicious actions in line with the enemies, said: "There are those who in their speeches say that the great Leader rejects the Leadership in his statements. The policies of the regime are now ratified in the National Security Council, which is the arm of the Leadership, and absolutely no policy is implemented without the signature of the Leader."

Razavi added: At the threshold of the anniversary of the death of the Imam, I remind you that these ceremonies should be held magnificently. Our revered nation, by keeping alive the memory of the Imam, will immortalize the lofty ideas of our beloved Imam.

In the call for prayer [Adan], the only obligatory portion after "I bear witness that there is no God but God" is bearing witness to the Prohethood of His Holiness the Messenger. Bearing witness to the guardianship of his holiness, the Commander of the Faithful, 'Ali, is said in prayer. I ask of the grand Leader, whose heart swells with love for the beloved Imam more than anyone else's and who grew under the care of the Imam, that, if he finds it appropriate, he instruct that the phrase "Khomeyni is the leader" after "God is great" remain in effect until the coming of his holiness Mahdi [the Hidden Imam], because the slogan "God is great, Khomeyni is the leader" is our strategic slogan.

In conclusion, Razavi-Yazdi expressed hope that the lofty, mystical and combative content of the communique of the grand Leader to his representative and the supervisor of the Iranian hajj pilgrims will be given attention and carried out during the hajj ceremonies so that the Abrahamian pilgrimage of the Imam remains alive.

Greetings to the three friends of Khomeyni, Hashemi and the two Seyyed Hoseyni.

Mohammad Haeri, the Representative of Mehran and Dehloran

Seeking power, intellectual backwardness, and attraction to luxuries and comfort can threaten the life of the regime and the revolution.

Seyyed Mohammad Haeri, from Mehran and Dehloran, was the second speaker.

Offering his congratulations on the anniversary of the establishment of the Majles, he spoke about the results of unity and said: Constant contact between people of various persuasions creates emotional ties between them and prevents them from disuniting and engaging in activities which foment hate. It creates understanding and eliminates those who would interfere and ruin good relations. Now, how is it that today, instead of resolving their differences in connection with jurisprudential issues and scholarly, political and economic interpretations in private circles to reach a common ground, the grand clergy, the captains of the ship of the Islamic revolution, in the Militant Clergy Association and Militant Clerics Associationy, attack each other everywhere? In mosques, on pulpits in various cities, those who are invited speak of their differences and divide the united nation into several groups; scholars attack each other's positions and in this way destroy respect and prepare the grounds for misuse by hostile elements. In this connection, some in the mosques of Kerman, Mashhad and Tehran and in the bazaar speak rudely against the scholars of Islam.

You have been and are the spiritual physicians of the society. In mosques, people only follow you in prayers.

You are not two political factions and groups in the Western style, to engage in risks for worldly gain. Is it not true that each one of you has a mosque and a pulpit, and people learn moral lessons and religious issues from you? Why should respect be destroyed? Some time ago, I was reading the analytical book on the history of the Imam's movement by Seyyed Hamid Ruhani. Reading the announcement and the joint signatures of the scholars, I was saddened to see the difference between their unity of yesterday and their division of today.

My dear friends, do you realize that if you attack one another as opponents, you will yourselves destroy your own roots, because the people no longer believe that you are also telling the truth? Is destruction of the public trust not the same as turning the wheels for the enemy?

Oh great scholars of Islam, if today the past unity is not developed, and if today the disuniting policies are not revised, tomorrow will be too late and time for despair.

He added: For numerous reasons and as a religious and national duty, in order to preserve Islamic brotherhood, in order to preserve the respect for the Islamic scholars and stop the hands of the secret disuniting agents, I ask the gentlemen of the revered ranks of scholarship in the honorable Militant Clergy Association and Militant Clerics Association to hold joint unity and coordination committees and then announce to the noble people of Iran the merging of these two great groups.

If not, in order to avoid the danger of a serious division of the Islamic nation, to preserve the Islamic revolution and the sanctity of the clergy and the religious center, I request of the grand Leader, if he finds it appropriate, to order a halt to the activities of the Militant Clergy Association and Militant Clerics Association and the dissolution of these organizations, and that these respected scholars stand side by side in one united organization, in a center similar to the "house of friendship of Islamic sects" as the "house of friendship of religious scholars."

He then referred to the saddening cries of the Iraqi Shi'ites and asked the United Nations to pay attention to their plight.

He continued: Brothers and sisters, love of comfort and attraction to luxury is a plague on the Islamic revolution and sets the course to collapse and destruction. In the meantime, the alertness of the officials, particularly the great clergy and Islamic scholars, is especially important. Because of its distinguished and singular position, the clergy must recognize the plague of the revolution better than anyone else, a plague that if not confronted may result in the destruction or metamorphosis of values and ultimately the elimination of the revolution. Plagues such as seeking power, indifference to the issues and problems of the society, intellectual backwardness, attraction to luxury and seeking comfort as well as dozens of other plagues can threaten the life of the regime and the revolution.

Continuing, the speaker referred to the deadlock of the East and West and added: In order to save humanity from the cesspool of destruction and misery, the Islamic school and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as true powers relying on God and the noble people, must play their lofty Islamic and humane role in the new world order to free humanity from misery and abjectness.

Haeri then proposed: The destroyed tombs of the Infallible Ones [the Shi'a Imams] and their revered companions in the Baqi Cemetery [the cemetery of Madina] must be repaired and reconstructed, and if Saudi Arabia seriously has good intentions, it must announce its agreement to cooperate with this proposal.

In conclusion, he made reminders to the ministers of economic affairs and finance and roads and transport concerning the problems in his constituency.

'Ali Aqa Mohammadi, the Representative of Hamadan

'Ali Aqa Mohammadi, the representative of Hamadan, using three minutes of the time of the representative of Birjand, in his pre-agenda speech, honored the anniversary of the establishment of the Majles and expressed hope that the people will always be able to play an essential role in the administration of the affairs of the country and the advancement of the affairs of Islam and the revolution through the Majles.

In continuation, he added:

One of the most important affairs the third Majles engaged in is the ratification of the five-year plan. The greatest service possible and the most important issue that was noted by the honorable representatives of the Majles in the five-year plan was economic reform, which will mean great economic surgery. The greatest service to take place in the history of our country is to sever dependence on foreigners. Naturally, in order to implement the plan, two serious decisions were necessary: (1) the establishment of a powerful government able to carry out this task and (2) unity, which must take place in defending the ratifications of the Majles to perpetuate this task. Thank God, the third Majles is proud to have established the strongest government. One of the closest friends of the Imam heads the government, and a decisive majority in the Majles support the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Everyone knows that the quintessence of the Majles is the government [the executive branch], and everyone knows that if the Majles wants to get involved in the administrative affairs of the country, it establishes a government, and naturally the Majles always supports and establishes the government. Separating the government from the Majles is the work of a minority that opposes the Majles, not the opponents of the government, because the government is set up by the Majles.

Stating that strengthening the government does not mean not criticizing it, he said: Strengthening the government means following up and supporting the essential policies of the government. The most important policies that the Majles has ratified and the government has taken steps to implement are the economic policies. If this does not reach results, all the tasks will be ruined, and the country will face a huge loss, to which no one can respond.

In conclusion, 'Ali Aqa Mohammadi said in regards to preserving the dignity and honor of the representatives: Protecting the dignity of the representatives is the most important issue on the agenda of the leadership [of the Majles] and on the agenda of every representative. Unfortunately, the arguments that have been made by some recently, especially the accusations they made against each other in financial matters, are a great tragedy that is unprecedented in the 11-year history of the Majles.

If the representatives are going to be targets of insults in this way, and if there are those in the Majles who actually have problems in financial affairs, it is necessary for the Speaker of the Majles, the leadership and every representative who signs the petition to identify these people. If each person accuses another and the newspapers publish these accusations in bold headlines, in the public eye, you can see, the Majles will appear to be an assembly of people trying to plunder and embezzle. Is making such accusations defending the dignity of the Majles? I request that all of us observe general respect for the representatives in this area.

Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh, the Representative of Birjand and Nohbandan

Ha'erizadeh said that the statements of the president at the Friday prayers were accusations arising out of anger.

The last pre-agenda speaker was Seyyed Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh, the representative of Birjand and Nohbandan, who in the beginning mentioned the historical days in Khordad [22 May-21 June] and honored them.

He then referred to the anniversary of the opening of the first Majles and said: The third Majles accomplished many good things and had many blessings. Volumes of proposals and bills for the service of the government to the Islamic nation were ratified in the third Majles and announced for implementation. In the third Majles, every year billions of tomans and hundreds of millions of tomans have been added to the education sectors, the oppressed areas, developmental affairs, industry, agriculture, mines and dozens of developmental affairs and services for the people, as evidenced in a comparison of annual budgets. The law on housing for educators and the numerous laws to eliminate the problems of the combatants and the families of martyrs and the liberated prisoners as well as the increase in the salaries of salaried employees are among the ratifications of the Majles that are published in two books every year. The special attention of the third Majles to the problems of students, professors, faculties and high school and elementary teachers and the laws protecting retired people and increasing their salaries have been ratified and announced. Also, the political reaction of the majority of the representatives against the criminal United States, old colonialist England, Zionism, the treacherous Saudi family, the criminal Saddam and the domineering and aggressive East and West are among the other activities of the third Majles.

In the course of the Persian Gulf war, some of the representatives of the Majles, while criticizing the neutral policy of the Islamic Republic, had referred to Saddam as Khaled ebn Walid, to which Mr. Ha'erizadeh did not refer. [comment by RESALAT]

Then, stating that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Friday prayers of Tehran began a good and rational discussion, especially about the problems of the government, which were true, Ha'erizadeh continued his speech. Without direct reference to and criticism of the text of the president's speech, he said: Unfortunately, in the middle of his speech, he made some angry and very spiteful statements that are not worthy of his position. It would have been proper to continue the same initial rational discussion about the services of the government. His anger and the fact that he said, "Some people criticize me, speak to get votes and not to preserve the revolution," is quite saddening. He said: "It must not be inculcated in the minds of the people that there is bad implementation, and high prices exist." Whereas, no one has inculcated high prices.

Mr. Ha'erizadeh ascribed to the president the statement in which he did not deny high prices at all. Rather, he said that some people, by raising the issue of high prices, want to create despair and hopelessness among the people. Also, Mr. Hashemi did not say that some people criticize or speak in order to get votes. Rather, he said: "It is a free country; podiums are free; newspapers are free; and this freedom is to our benefit. Let them talk, but I want you to be aware that something said to get votes is different from what is said to protect the revolution." [comment by RESALAT]

He continued: The president said, "The United States is trying to discredit the officials and revolutionary and Hezbollah personalities of the country among the people, to make a mountain out of a mole hill and to create doubt among the working and Hezbollah class."

These statements are most unfortunate. I say that the government [the executive branch] really has many problems, and the Majles has rendered every kind of service to the government. More than 99 percent of the bills and requests have been approved. In many cases, what has been ratified is more than what the government wanted. This kind of talk by a distinguished official such as yourself [the president] will worsen the conflicts, although some of us must follow more appropriate ways in our criticism and speech. Such accusations and insults

are not worthy of distinguished officials. The one who starts the fight is always the guilty one. Who speaks to buy votes?

It is most unfortunate. Ha'erizadeh did not stop at the above-mentioned unethical and improper accusations and continued in the same tone. [comment by RESALAT]

If you are angry, you had better read your speech, to be able to control it. Your position, after the Leader, is the highest official position in the country. It is not in keeping with Islamic morality to speak out of anger and hatred against the critics.

"It behhoves not the beloved to slay the lover, but to care for the lover's sorrow."

Continuing, he pointed out: Some newspapers also write stinging statements that are improper and engage in sarcastic remarks which, of course, are improper. Perhaps this is a reaction to that. Newspapers and magazines must observe Islamic morality even more. While making proper criticism, they must also pay attention to the problems and the services of the government. Despite many problems for the government, with one million Iraqi Kurdish refugees and several million Iraqi and Muslim Afghan refugees as well as hundreds of other problems, the services of the third Majles to the government are praiseworthy.

In conclusion, he said: The tone of our criticism must be based on the logic of "calling to God's path with wisdom and good advice." Sometimes when we are angry, we deviate from the proper path and accuse each other.

(Shouts of bravo by several representatives and some members of the leadership, whose microphones are always on, as well as the objections of other representatives.)

It is interesting that Mr. Hashemi in his Friday prayer sermon, after giving warnings about suspicious, discordant movements, had pointed out that those he was addressing will start responding, and the people should recognize them. [comment by RESALAT]

Statements of the Speaker of the Majles

In the open session yesterday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi referred to 7 Khordad [28 May], the anniversary of the establishment of the Majles, and said: Eleven years have passed, during which the Majles has had a very good report card in connection with guarding the values of the Islamic revolution. He added: The Majles has rendered great services to the Islamic revolution, and these services have been witnessed in all the Majles terms, including the first, the second and the third.

Referring to the actions of the Majles in the past year, including the reaction to the unbelieving political groups, Mr. Karrubi referred to the framework of the Imam and the events of the vote on the incompetence of Bani Sadr and said: The life-giving statements of the Imam in endorsing the Majles, and for that matter under those circumstances, show his extraordinary farsightedness. While efforts were being made to weaken the Majles, he was most protective of it.

Points were made [by Khomeyni] concerning the Majles being the result of the cries of "God is great" and the essence of "God is great," the struggles and blood of martyrs, and a center of the nation's virtues.

The Speaker of the Majles added: We see one point nowadays, and I find it necessary as a Muslim, a clergyman and a parliamentarian to respond. They say, If the Majles has a fault or deficiency, or if an individual or individuals among the representatives have said something without evaluating it or did not do their duty precisely, is the Majles still the essence?

Mr. Karrubi said: Yes. It is quite clear that the Majles is the essence. There is no question that all of us should evaluate what we say, including the parliamentarians.

The Majles must be careful to evaluate what it says.

Continuing his statements, the Speaker of the Majles emphasized: The fact that every Muslim must be orderly and disciplined and carry out the responsibilities he has accepted will also receive no argument, and certainly disorder is bad for every Muslim, especially for the representatives of the nation.

But making an issue out of this and saying that now the Majles is or is not the essence is not likely to be heard from worthy, competent people.

Mr. Karrubi said: For two reasons, this issue should be examined. The first reason is that the Imam supported the totality, majority and institution of the Majles when the Majles had many more weaknesses than it does now, in fact, there were fundamental weaknesses.

It has been argued that some individuals are in the Majles who do not even practice their religious obligations. But at the same time, the Imam, knowing that the institution of the Majles supports the revolution and has the votes of the Hezbollah nation, supported it in order that it become the Majles it is now, with faithful, perfected, revolutionary, battlefront-experienced, Hezbollah, martyr-bestowing and united forces.

The Speaker of the Majles added: It is true that there are two sides in the differences of opinion, but the body of the representatives is made up of faithful forces loyal to the Imam's line who have been tested during the revolution.

The second point is that if there are going to be weaknesses and shortcomings in an assembly and we say that it has fallen from its position because of it, then what can be safe?

In other words, an assembly of Friday imams, a gathering of the Cabinet members, a gathering of the Council of Guardians, and an assembly of experts may also have

shortcomings. If any institution which has shortcomings no longer holds its position under this pretext, there will be nothing left.

Mr. Karrubi continued: When the Imam emphasizes and says that the Majles has such characteristics, it means the totality of the Majles, the majority of the Majles, most of the people in the Majles. Otherwise, we cannot guarantee that an assembly is always good.

The Speaker of the Majles said: The Majles is on the Imam's line, the line of Leadership, and serves the regime. If we are to take improper speech as a touchstone, there has been so much of it during the Friday prayers in these few years. This cannot be a touchstone. We say that on the whole, the Friday prayers have been the foundation and the best guarantee of the revolution. We say that the Council of Guardians protects Islam, the laws of Islam and the Constitution. If there is a mistake somewhere, can we say that it does not?

The Speaker of the Majles then said: Therefore, we must not try to compose a poem that we cannot rhyme. If we say something and it is generalized to apply to everything, this is not fair. Then, stating that the third Majles is better developed, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi added: It should be so. Certainly, the fourth Majles will be better and the fifth Majles better still.

Then, presenting statistics on the one-year activities of the Majles last year and the holding of 131 open sessions, with more than 564 hours of active work; the holding of 1,429 committee meetings, with 4,024 hours of work in them; and the ratification of 5 proposals and bills (including 24 bills and 27 proposals offered by the representatives), he said: The efforts of the representatives in offering the proposals clearly indicates the activity of the Majles in resolving the problems of the people and the government. Mr. Karrubi enumerated the ratifications of the Majles last year to eliminate deprivation, provide for the needs of the people and the oppressed, especially the grand families of the martyrs and the self-sacrificers and the liberated prisoners of war, and the attention given to the salaried people and farmers, educational issues, and the issues of the military and security forces. He also emphasized the anti-global oppression positions of the revolution and mentioned the ratification of the laws of the national day to combat global oppression (13 Aban [4 November]), the severance of relations with England due to the issue of Salman Rushdie, the fight against the terrorist actions of the United States, and support for the Islamic revolution of the people of Palestine as the highlights of the revolutionary and anti-oppression ratifications of the Majles.

Letter of 90 Representatives to the President

In yesterday's session, 90 representatives of the Majles announced in a letter addressed to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani:

The painful statements of the honorable president in the Friday prayer sermons in Tehran were quite saddening. He has always been a manifestation of patience, resistance, tolerance and forbearance. His worries this time speak of the depth of a painful tragedy that will make the free thinkers of and sympathizers with the Islamic society express the support for this valuable, alert and able person, the president, and warn the insulting, uncontrolled and disuniting elements of the ultimate result of their actions.

We, the representatives of the Majles, declare our firm and unqualified support for Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is one of the closest friends of the Imam and one of the dearest supporters of the grand Leader, one of the heroes of our beloved Islamic revolution. We hereby condemn the mercenary and desperate actions of the disuniting elements and hope that with the alertness of our beloved people, the preservation of the unity of the word, which heads the will and testament of our revered Imam and is a secret of the success of our Islamic regime, will not be distorted by the conspiracy of those who aid the enemy.

Names of signatory representatives.

(1) Ahmad Salek, (2) Ferdowsipur, (3) Niazi, (4) Kamyar, (5) Mohammad 'Azimi, (6) Hasan Ruhani, (7) Arbabi-Fard, (8) 'Enayat, (9) 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, (10) 'Abdolkarim Ahmadnezhad, (11) Kianinejad, (12) Habib Borumand, (13) 'Amid Zanjani, (14) Saleh Ruhanizadeh, (15) Mohammad 'Ali Movahedi-Kermani, (16) Parvaresh, (17) Shahraki, (18) Mirghaffari, (19) Khalil Movashah, (20) Qasemi-Varzaqan, (21) Ahmad Zamanian, (22) Movahedi-Saveji, (23) Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi, (24) Farzpur, (25) Kheyrkhah, (26) Rahbari-Amlashi, (27) Hasan Reza'i, (28) Hosein 'Ali Zia'i, (29) Ja'fari-Esfahan, (30) Kavusi, (31) Majdara, (32) Faza'eli, (33) Bahonar, (34) Seyyed Hasan Shoja'i, (35) 'Abdol Saheb Musavi, (36) Seyyed Reza Akrami, (37) Yusefpur, (38) Mohammad 'Ali Shar'i, (39) Asadollah Tabe', (40) Afrazideh, (41) Akrami, (42) Akbar Nikruz, (43) 'Abdollah Hejrati, (44) 'Abdol' Aziz Dadgar, (45) Seyyed Fakhr-ed-Din Musavi-Nanehkaran, (46) Mohammad Reza Shafi'i, (47) Morovatollah Partow, (48) Arthur Khananshu, (49) Davud Towhidi, (50) Amir Mir, (51) Vahid Ahmadi, (52) Maryam Behruzi, (53) Hojjatollah Asadi, (54) Karim Shafe'i, (55) Nabavi, (56) Vartan Vartanian, (57) Qolizadeh, (58) 'Arab-'Ameri, (59) Nabibollah Raji, (60) 'Ezzatollah Damadi, (61) Feda'i-'Araki, (62) Imam Musavi, (63) Chitchian, (64) Hashemzadeh-Ra'isi, (65) Seyyed Ahmad Sirjani, (66) Mohammad Hosein Anzabi, (67) Aflatun Ziafat, (68) Mas'ud Hashemi-Zehi, (69) Moslem Mirnaparu, (70) Parviz Seyqali, (71) Shahriari, (72) Besanjideh, (73) Bakhsh'ali Rahimnejad, (74) Mostafa Morsali, (75) Seyyed Mehdi Tabataba'i,and about 15 other illegible signatures.

On the Peripheries of the Majles

In his pre-agenda speech yesterday, Mr. Ha'erizadeh, the representative of Birjand, protested the recent speech of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, in his Friday prayer sermons in Tehran and said: This kind of talk and

insult is not worthy of distinguished officials and is unfortunate. If you are angry, you had better read your speech in order to have control over your words.

Following the speech of Mr. Ha'erizadeh, a number of the representatives of the Majles protested his speech.

Mr. 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh, the representative of Esfahan, said to the Speaker of the Majles in this connection: Mr. Karrubi, why do you not issue a reminder? It is your duty to say that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani did not insult anyone and that the statement by Mr. Ha'erizadeh is untrue.

Mr. Yusefpur, the representative of Ardal and Farsan, also protested the statements of the representative of Birjand and addressing him said: You are one of those who always causes pain for the president and stings him at every opportunity.

Also, several other representatives engaged several minutes later in arguments with Mr. Ha'erizadeh and criticizing his statements, saying that, as Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, tomorrow they will start to respond to him (the president). In doing so, you exposed yourself.

The negotiations of the Majles continued while the representative of Birjand wrote a letter, which he gave to the chairman of the session. Concerning the content of the letter, Mr. Bayat said: Mr. Ha'erizadeh gave me a note saying to announce his apology to the president and that he has requested of the press not to publish that part of his statements in which he says that the president has used insulting language and that he had better read his speech.

Following the statements of the president at the Tehran Friday prayers, which was followed by the overall support of the various strata of people, including the Friday and congregational imams, the clergy, and the university societies and associations, yesterday, 90 representatives of the Majles signed a letter in support of the speech of the president.

Our parliamentary correspondent asked several representatives for the reason they did not support the speech of the president, the responses of whom are as follows:

Mr. Salehabadi, the representative of Mashhad, laughing: "Don't pull my leg; don't be naughty."

Mr. Khalkhali, the representative of Qom: "Get lost."

Mr. Qomi, the representative of Varamin: "If it had been written by the leadership [of the Majles], I would have signed it."

Mr. Qomi: Other representatives also write sometimes.

Correspondent: Will you sign a letter in support of the president?

Mr. Qomi: "Leave me alone."

Mr. Mohammad 'Azimi, the representative of Tarqabeh and Chenaran, had a brief interview with our correspondent about the weaknesses and strengths of the Majles last year. He said:

The Majles must be a manifestation of the will of the nation and the source of strength and stability of the regime. It must spend its time passing through the surface and delving into the depths of the ideals of the regime and through effective steps guarantee the stability of the regime in the depths of the ideals. Unfortunately, in the past year, these steps seem to have been too shaky and of little consequence.